

## **Prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Alstadt**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to outline the district's plan for managing emergency weather closures during the 2026-2027 school year. This report provides a rationale for continuing the use of E-Learning days and addresses why alternative models, such as late starts, are not being recommended for our specific district context.

### **Background and Information**

As the district plans for the upcoming school year, we have evaluated various models for handling inclement weather. While we remain in close communication with the high school district regarding their potential shift to late-start schedules, our administrative team has determined that maintaining our current E-Learning practices is the most effective way to ensure both safety and instructional continuity.

### **Operational Rationale**

Our district's unique operational needs differ significantly from a single-site high school setting where many students provide their own transportation.

- The administration will continue to prioritize the safety of our students and staff as the primary factor in all weather-related decisions.
- Our district operates across multiple school sites and manages complex transportation routes that accommodate a large majority of our student population.
- The late-start model is less viable for a PreK-8 district because our families rely heavily on consistent busing schedules and predictable childcare windows.
- We believe that maintaining a consistent instructional routine through E-Learning provides greater academic value than simply adding make-up days to the end of the school year.
- Traditional school cancellations will be reserved exclusively for extreme emergencies where the district is physically unable to operate an E-Learning day.

### **Instructional Enhancements**

We are committed to refining the E-learning experience to ensure it is as impactful as in-person instruction.

- The district is currently exploring strategies to elevate the rigor and engagement of our E-Learning modules across all grade levels.
- We are working to streamline communication between teachers and families to ensure that learning expectations are clear and accessible during emergency closures.
- Our goal is to provide a seamless transition from the classroom to the home environment so that no instructional time is lost due to weather or operational concerns.

### **Administrative Recommendation**

This report is provided to ensure the Board and our stakeholders understand the "why" behind our decision-making process. By clearly communicating these operational constraints, we aim to help our community understand that while a late-start may fit the high school's unique needs, the E-Learning model remains the most responsible and effective choice for the students and families of SES 44.