

Virtual Learning Days (District Framework)

The school district has considered implementing virtual learning days as an educational alternative for school cancellations caused by the winter weather. The district has collected feedback from the members of our school district improvement team, VCEA negotiating school representatives (4), staff members, and parents regarding virtual learning days. This is a compilation of this feedback, recommendation, and the next steps in preparation for implementing virtual learning days during the 2022-2023 school year.

Feedback: Considering Virtual Learning Days

- **School Improvement Team Members and VCEA Representatives**
 - Yes- 26%, No- 10%, Yes, but only if necessary- 64%
- **Staff Members**
 - If needed, we could be ready to go virtual in a heartbeat. Sadly, we got really good at that not very long ago. Whatever is needed for our students, count me in.
 - Virtual learning works well for my 50+ students if they do it. It is easy for us to transition because this is what we do. All students are able to communicate with me if they need help. I would rather have them safe.
- **Parents**
 - 100 percent support for virtual learning instead of using storm days.!
 - I'm definitely for the virtual school make up if needed. We make sure our girls attend, study, and do the homework as if they are in school.
 - I know I have a little bit of a unique perspective having both public and homeschool kids in my home, but I would explore virtual learning options even before using the makeup days. The technology we have is so advanced, and it can only be better than the COVID days when everyone was forced to go that route. Summer is just too short in our state so we need all the sunny days we can get 😊 This winter season sure has come in with a blast though!
 - My daughter is in 3rd grade and it worked great during covid to have the packets for the elementary kids. Maybe they could create a storm packet that the kids bring home in October and then each week they bring home an extra worksheet to add to the packet? This way there is always something available at home with zero notice and the material can be kept updated by the weekly worksheet and at worst, they would just be reviewing stuff that they have already learned, and we wouldn't need to worry about having an iPad at home.
 - The virtual schooling option would not work for us as I work in childcare and am starting a new job the week after thanksgiving. Thank you.

Recommendation: Implement Virtual Learning Days "As Possible and If Necessary" Beginning in December 2022

Based upon the feedback from our school improvement team, VCEA representatives, staff, and parents; I would recommend that we would begin implementing student virtual learning days "as possible and if necessary" beginning in December 2022. "As possible" would take into consideration the forecast and timing of each winter weather system. It would be ideal to utilize a virtual learning day when all students and staff are aware that a virtual day may occur the next school day(s). The advanced communication would allow for good planning and ensure students have access to iPads and/or school supplies, thus maximizing student engagement during a virtual learning day. "If necessary", would describe the situation of the school district and the need to use a virtual learning day based upon previously used storm days (including grace day) and the time of year in the winter season. Both "as possible and if necessary" would describe the circumstances that would be considered in the decision to use a virtual learning day in our school district.



Next Steps: Preparing for a Virtual Learning Day (Students, Staff, and Parents)

With a recommendation to implement virtual learning days beginning in December 2022, the students, staff, and parents in our school district will have time to prepare for the possibility of virtual learning days. In an effort to maximize student engagement, eliminate barriers to virtual learning, and provide educational value from a virtual learning day, all stakeholders will need to participate in the planning for a virtual learning day. This will include the following preparations and next steps:

- **The Students and Parents Will:**

- Be able to access iPad's and/or class resources/materials (i.e. learning packets).
- Be able to access Student Learning Management System (i.e. Canvas, Seesaw, etc..)
- Have access to Wi-Fi or have an individualized education plan with teachers/school.
- Supervise and/or support k-3 students, or have a plan in place that has been communicated and arranged with classroom teacher/school (i.e. daycare, siblings, etc.)
- Meet teacher/school expectations and agree to attend and participate in both synchronous (live virtual) and asynchronous (recorded) classes.
- Have access to other learning resources as communicated and expected by the teacher/school (i.e. school supplies including pencils, paper, markers, etc..)

- **The Teachers and School Will:**

- Ensure that all students have access to either an iPad and/or class resources/material.
- Create an individualize learning plan with students (and parents) that are unable to access Wi-Fi or have other barriers that prevent online synchronous or asynchronous participation during virtual learning day.
- Create an individualized learning plan with students (and parents) for students that are in grades k-3 and are unable to access necessary supports or supervision during virtual learning day.
- Establish a comprehensive virtual learning day schedule for each class and/or grade level and clearly communicate with stakeholders as soon as possible.
- Create a plan with clear expectations for students and parents regarding attendance and participation during virtual learning days (and will be informally agreed upon by all stakeholders).
- Report student attendance and participation on virtual learning days to the school office and district.

- **The School District Will:**

- Communicate with stakeholders regarding the decision to use or possibility of using a virtual learning day, as soon as possible, understanding that advanced communications will assist everyone with planning and preparing for a virtual learning day.
- Provide support for our teachers/school in preparing for the use of virtual learning days.
- Work with students and parents to eliminate, if possible, the challenges or barriers that prevent students from attending or participating in a virtual learning day.
- Collect data and evaluate the effectiveness of virtual learning days at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

