



## **Flexible eLearning Days**

In the event of a school closure due to inclement weather, learning expectations for all students may continue through an Flexible eLearning day. This day refers to a school day where teachers and students communicate online instead of coming to school with set-up prior learning expectations, and students continue their learning from home. On a Flexible eLearning day, teachers will share assignments and hold office hours in which they are available to provide learning support to students. A Flexible eLearning day serves as a student contact day. The Flexible eLearning day plan is built upon the best work practices already occurring in school districts across Minnesota while adhering to Minnesota Statutes. This plan has been developed in cooperation with STRIDE teaching staff.

## **MN State Statute 120A.41**

### *Background Information*

*The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) e-Learning days statute outlines how Minnesota school districts can implement these instructional days. According to the statute:*

- *Definition: e-Learning day means a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by students' individual teachers due to inclement weather.*
- *Each student's teacher must be accessible both online and by telephone during normal school hours on an e-learning day to assist students and parents.*
- *Notify parents and students at least two hours prior to the normal school start time that students need to follow the e-learning day plan for that day.*
- *Notify parents and students of the e-Learning day plan at the beginning of the school year.*
- *Accommodations for students without sufficient access to the Internet, hardware or software in their homes. (School administration, teachers, and other staff continually work with families to ensure equitable access to online learning resources, including distributing "hot spots" or alternative resources if possible.)*

## **How will a Flexible eLearning Day be communicated to parents and students?**

Parents/Guardians will receive an automated phone call via the School Messenger program with both an audio message and an email. STRIDE Academy follows District 742's (St. Cloud) lead on Flexible eLearning Days. Notification will also be posted to the STRIDE Academy web page, [www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org), as soon as possible when school is closed for the day. Students should not report to school but should engage in Flexible eLearning activities as assigned.

### **How will teachers communicate eLearning instructions and expectations?**

Teachers will have provided instruction via Flexible eLearning Folders. Every STRIDE Student has been provided a blue Flexible eLearning folder. These will include accessible instructions for students with disabilities under chapter 125A and meet the needs of each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP)/504 plans. All licensed staff will participate in professional development regarding the Flexible eLearning days plan to maximize student learning.

### **When will teachers be available?**

Teachers will communicate with parents/guardians regarding how students can get help (or ask questions) about their Flexible eLearning day assignments via the students' Flexible eLearning folder. Teachers will be available to students from 9 am - 11:00 a.m. Teachers can opt to deliver Flexible eLearning instruction from off-campus or in their classroom. Specialists and case managers will also be available via email for support. All licensed staff are required to work on a Flexible eLearning day or take personal or sick leave as appropriate, subject to supervisor approval.

### **Is attendance taken for a Flexible eLearning Day?**

Yes.

- K- 4 Attendance - students will be marked present by completing the assigned learning options.
- 5-8 Attendance - students will be marked present by completing the assigned learning options.

Attendance must be verified for each class. Students who do not participate in planned activities are considered absent for those class(es) and are reported as absent just as if they were not present for an on-campus class.

### **Can families choose to opt-out of Flexible eLearning days?**

Students whose family chooses not to participate in the Flexible eLearning day are reported as absent. Absences reasons that fall under the current policy as excused will be marked as excused (503. [Student Attendance Policy](#)). All other absences will be considered unexcused unless the student completes the Flexible eLearning assignments within one week. If there are extenuating circumstances, the principals may review the absence.

### **How will students be expected to “make up” their learning if not in attendance?**

Students will be responsible for completing the required work independently as they would in any situation where they may have been absent from school. Students will have one week to complete Flexible eLearning assignments.

**What if the Governor cancels schools across MN on a Flexible eLearning Day?**

If the Governor cancels school statewide, there will not be a Flexible eLearning day, and teaching staff will not report to work.

**Is technology required for Flexible eLearning days?**

No. All teaching instruction will be delivered via written instructions in their Flexible eLearning folder.

**How will the Flexible eLearning day affect activities?**

In general, when school is closed, all activities are canceled.

**How should Flexible eLearning days be reported in Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS)?**

Flexible eLearning days are reported as regular instructional days on the MARSS School File.

Students

enrolled on a Flexible eLearning day would generate one day of membership. The length of the school day will be reported as the same length that was originally scheduled had the students attended at the school site.