



# Flex Learning Days

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are Flex Learning Days?

Flex Learning Days are stay-at-home learning days that are invoked when the weather conditions force the district to close. Using our normal winter weather communications, families will be notified that a Flex Learning Day is in effect.

### Why do we need Flex Learning Days?

Continuity of learning is important for our students to succeed. In order to do this, we feel that learning needs to continue, even when we have an unplanned cancellation of a school day. Students in grades 5-12 will be expected to participate in their courses in Schoology and via Zoom and grades K-4 will be expected to complete activities from their Choice Board.

All schools in Minnesota have a required amount of time for which students must attend. In the event that we have a school cancellation due to inclement weather, Flex Learning Days help us meet our attendance requirements without having to schedule make-up days.

### How do Flex Learning Days work?

- Families will receive an automated message notifying them of a school cancellation and a Flex Learning Day. Messages will also be distributed on the district website, social media, and appear on local television stations.
- The first two cancellations due to winter weather **will not** be replaced with Flex Learning Days. The third and subsequent school closures **may be** replaced with Flex Learning Days.
- Flex Learning Day instructions and assignments will be posted in Schoology for grades 5-12 and in an email for Early Childhood-Grade 4 and Transitions students and families.
- Teachers will hold "office hours" during regular school hours.
- Recognizing that students with special needs may face unique challenges while performing academic tasks independently, provisions will be made for the particular needs of these students by their teachers.

### Is attendance taken on Flex Learning Days?

Yes, this is a requirement by state legislation. Attendance is taken by setting due dates/times for Flex Learning assignments:

- All assignments will be due no later than the third day after a Flex Learning Day. This allows students without access to technology to complete assignments.
- Activities for Early Childhood are considered optional as attendance for this age level is not required by legislation.
- For students in grades 6-12, attendance may also be taken during a Zoom session if it is part of the assignment for the course.



## **Flex Learning Days Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What if a Flex Learning Day is called and my students are at their emergency day care (with grandparent/neighbor, etc.)?**

Students will have up to three days to complete their assignments, so there will be time for parental assistance to complete the work. Teachers have taken this possibility into consideration and planned activities that can be done with little support.

### **How do I or my child contact the teacher if we have questions?**

Parents and students can contact their teacher via email during regular school hours. If you would like a response via phone call, please provide the phone number for the teacher to call.

### **Are other districts doing this?**

A number of other districts in Minnesota are using similar activities for Flex Learning Days. We looked at what other districts are doing and have incorporated some of those ideas in creating a plan to best meet the needs of our students, while complying with state laws that set expectations for Flex Learning Days.