

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
PRESENTATION ON
PROPOSED INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

OCTOBER 24, 2022

Background Information:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), building on the success of the opportunity provided in the 2021-2022 school year, is opening a pathway for local education agencies (LEAs) to repurpose certain days as virtual school days in the 2022-2023 school year. To ensure meaningful and equitable virtual instruction during these days, pursuant to the Superintendent's authority under Education Article §2-303, a process and attestations have been established to seek approval to repurpose certain days as virtual school days.

The days that may be considered for this opportunity include inclement weather days (i.e., snow days), staff professional learning days, high school graduation days to enable teachers to assist with or attend the graduation, or other similar circumstances described in the MSDE application.

School systems will have the opportunity to use a total of eight days as a virtual school day for the described purposes. The days may be synchronous or asynchronous, however, no more than three of the eight days may be used as an asynchronous day.

Discussion:

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) would like the Board's support to apply to use three (3) asynchronous days in the event of inclement weather during the 2022-2023 school year. If approved, this will allow asynchronous virtual instruction on three of the six designated inclement weather make-up days. This will result in the final possible day of instruction (with three (3) "traditional" inclement weather days) being Tuesday, June 20, 2022. Currently, with six "traditional" inclement weather days built into the calendar, the final instructional day is scheduled for Friday, June 23, 2022.

With the Board's approval, HCPS will provide responses to the following MSDE inquiries via the MSDE Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2022-2023 School Year:

MSDE Inquires

Devices and Access to Wi-Fi

Describe the school system's plan to ensure that all students (especially students who are homeless, students with disabilities, and English learner students) and teachers have the necessary devices at home for virtual days and have access to Wi-Fi.

Accommodations

Describe the plan to provide the students with a free appropriate public education and implement the learning continuity plan in the student's IEP (including specially designed instruction, related services, supplementary aides and services, and accommodations).

Opportunity for Engagement

The completed Department required Virtual Day Instruction Plan and Attestation Template must be publicly presented and discussed at a local school board meeting. An opportunity for parents to publicly comment or submit comments must be included as part of the school board meeting. The completed Virtual Day Instruction Plan and Attestation Template submitted by the LEA must have been voted on and approved by the local board. This is a required element of the application. There will be no Department review or consideration for approval until this step is completed.

Communication Process

Describe the communication process to students, teachers, parents/guardians, etc. that the day will be virtual (synchronous or asynchronous) and the plan for instruction.

Attendance Procedures for Asynchronous Days

Describe the specific procedures on how attendance will be taken on asynchronous days.

Additional Factors

Describe any other factors particular to the plan for virtual days in your LEA.

Attestations (Please check each box)

- ☐ There will be a minimum of four hours of synchronous instruction for all students on each synchronous virtual day.
- ☐ There will be no more than a total of eight virtual days.
- ☐ There will be no more than three asynchronous virtual days out of the total of eight possible virtual days.
- ☐ Attendance will be taken for all students and teachers during the virtual day.
- ☐ For asynchronous days, a transparent process will be used to take attendance.
- ☐ Virtual days will not negatively impact a student's grade. There will be meaningful opportunities for students to make up work outside of virtual learning.
- ☐ The Virtual Day Instruction Plan was presented at a publicly accessible local board of education meeting. Parents were provided an opportunity to provide comment on the plan and the local board of education voted in favor of the plan presented in this application.
- ☐ The Virtual Day Instruction Plan will be posted on the LEA website. The link will be provided to MSDE upon approval of the Virtual Day Instruction Plan by MSDE.
- ☐ No employee's pay will be negatively impacted by the decision to have a virtual day. This includes custodians, cafeteria workers, etc.
- ☐ Use of a virtual day for any grade or grade band counts as one of the school system's virtual days.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education accept this informational report. Following discussion of the presentation and public input, the Board will be asked to vote on this topic at a later Board meeting.