

**DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
WILMETTE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 39**

ACTION ITEM

Date: March 16, 2020

To: Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.,
Superintendent

From: Katie S. Lee
Administrator for Curriculum & Instruction

Subject: Resolution to Adopt e-Learning Program in Lieu of the District's Scheduled
Emergency Days

PROPOSED ACTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approve the attached Resolution to Adopt e-Learning Program in Lieu of the District's Scheduled
Emergency Days.

BACKGROUND

According to Section 10-20.56 of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.56], school districts may, by
adopted resolution, utilize "e-learning days" in lieu of emergency days. The number of e-Learning
days may not exceed the number of emergency days in the approved school calendar. The district's
e-learning program must be verified by the regional office of education or intermediate service
center for the school district prior implementation.

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, District 39 along with the other New Trier
Township Schools chose not to propose e-Learning days. However, with recent events that may fall
under the definition of "emergency days", District 39 is pursuing the approval of an e-Learning Plan
as an option for the remainder of 2019-2020 school year. The approval and adoption of an e-
Learning plan allows Wilmette District 39 to implement e-Learning on emergency days.

The proposed E-Learning Program which, if approved, will permit students' instruction to be
received electronically while students are not physically present in lieu of the district's scheduled
emergency days. If approved, the e-Learning Program will be implemented for a three-year term.

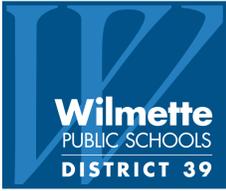
Administration recommends approval of the attached Resolution to Adopt e-Learning Program in
Lieu of the District's Scheduled Emergency Days.

Attachments

Recommended for approval by the Board of Education,



Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent



Wilmette District 39: e-Learning Program Plan

Background

Building off a pilot program instituted during the 2018-2019 school year, Wilmette District 39 has developed the following proposed plan for e-learning days. This plan has been developed to be consistent with state statute and is modeled after other approved programs that adhere to the provisions established by the Regional Offices of Education - Illinois State Board of Education.

Access **Students**

General Education

Students in grades 1-8 have regular access to an iPad or Chromebook throughout their school day. Students in grades 5-8 regularly take these devices home to support educational activities and homework. In the event of an e-Learning day, District 39 may allow students in grades 1-4 to take in-school devices home to support learning activities while away from school. According to a recent survey of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, only one family indicated they had no access to the internet at home. District 39 will work to find a means by which this family or any others can access the Internet during e-Learning days.

If students are not able to access assignments online, the student and/or family have the option to pick up paper copies of assignments on their next school day following e-Learning days. They will have up to 5 days to complete those assignments.

Students with Special Needs/Accommodations

Teachers and Learning Behavior Specialists will design assignments aligned with any accommodations and/or modifications outlined in their individual education plans (IEP). Students with comprehensive needs will receive assignments and work consistent with their IEP goals.

Teachers

All teachers receive MacBooks and an iPad. Teachers currently use GSuite, Google Classroom, Apple Classroom, Schoology, and SeeSaw. These tools can be used for posting assignments, communicating with families, and monitoring assignments. Teachers also record grades and attendance in PowerSchool.

Instruction

All teachers will have lessons ready in the event that an e-Learning day is called. The lessons should provide instruction that can fit in during any point in the curriculum; however, teachers are encouraged to create a customized lesson and/or learning activities for the e-Learning day. Lessons should be stored in any of the online platforms utilized regularly such as GSuite, Google Classroom, Apple Classroom, Schoology, and SeeSaw.



Wilmette District 39: e-Learning Program Plan

Grades K-4

For each K-4 class, teachers will design instruction to take the equivalent amount of time allotted for each content area within a typical school day. The time allotments vary for related arts (or “specials”) classes such as art, library/technology, music, Spanish, and physical education according to grade level. In addition, Kindergarten in District 39 is a half-day academic program and relative instructional times for e-Learning will be adjusted accordingly. Teachers will use any of the following platforms to share lessons: GSuite, Google Classroom, Apple Classroom, SeeSaw.

Grades 5-8

For each grades 5-8 class, teachers will design instruction to take the equivalent amount of time allotted for each content area within a typical school day. In addition to English-Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, World Language, and Physical Education, each student may also be enrolled in one or more of a variety of electives within the Fine Arts, Performing Arts, and Tech-based/Programming Departments. The e-Learning lessons will mirror the students’ typical school day schedule. Teachers will use any of the following platforms to share lessons: GSuite, Google Classroom, Apple Classroom, Schoology.

Attendance

Students will sign in using a Google Form that will be accessible for the entire 24 hours of the e-Learning day. Teachers will have access to sign-in data and will use the information to record attendance in PowerSchool.

Students/families who are unable to sign in using the Google Form (e.g. unable to access Internet) can submit an excused absence similar to existing school policies and will have two days to make up any missed work consistent with Board policy and established procedures.

Training

Staff will learn about the expectations for an e-Learning day through email communication, staff meetings, and online video. Opportunities for in-person support and consultation will be made available during independent professional time.

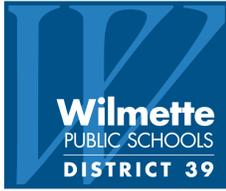
Students and families will learn about the expectations and student responsibilities for an e-learning day through direct communication from the Superintendent and/or district administrators via email and in writing. They will also be directed to the e-Learning day page on the District 39’s website for a full overview of this program.

Non-Instructional Staff

In the event of an e-Learning day, non-instructional staff (grouped by collective bargaining groups) shall operate under the following:

The following Wilmette 39 staff are expected to work their normal shifts:

- Custodian
- Maintenance
- Stationary Engineer



Wilmette District 39: e-Learning Program Plan

- HVAC/electrical

The following staff should refer to their supervisor for instructions:

- Administrators
- Exempt
- All Other Support Staff

Program Evaluation

After holding an official e-Learning day, the district will survey stakeholders including students, teachers, non-instructional staff, and families for feedback on how the e-Learning day went and how it could be improved in the future.

Communication

Students & Families

Information will be shared with students and families about expectations and protocols for an e-Learning day as soon as possible, and no later than 30 days prior to utilizing an e-learning day. When an e-Learning day is implemented at District 39, information will be shared through the emergency notification system (text, email, and phone call). The district web page will also prominently display a banner similar to when school is canceled due to inclement weather or other adverse circumstances. In addition, links to the e-Learning program section of the website will be provided.

Staff

District 39 staff will learn of the expectations for employees on an e-Learning day as soon as possible. The general expectations, responsibilities, and requirements will be provided for staff on a google site as far in advance of calling an e-Learning day.

References

Cheok M. L., Wong S. L., 2015. Predictors of eLearning satisfaction in teaching and learning for school teachers: a literature review. *International Journal of Instruction*, 8(1). Retrieved from <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1085289>.

Leyden-10-Tips-E-Learning (n.d.) - Illinois State Board of Education. Retrieved from <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Leyden-10-Tips-E-Learning.pdf>

Leyden Finally Able To Test Out E-Learning Pilot Program. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.journal-topics.com/articles/leyden-finally-able-to-test-out-e-learning-pilot-program/>

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT eLEARNING PROGRAM IN LIEU OF
THE DISTRICT'S SCHEDULED EMERGENCY DAYS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Wilmette Public Schools District 39 is adopting an eLearning program district-wide that shall permit student instruction to be received electronically while students are not physically present in lieu of the district's scheduled emergency days.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Wilmette Public Schools that will employ an eLearning program that:

- May utilize the Internet, telephones, texts, chat rooms, or other similar means of electronic communication for instruction and interaction between teachers and students that meet the needs of all learners.
- Ensures and verifies that required clock hours of instruction or school work for each student participating in an eLearning day.
- Ensures access from home or other appropriate remote facility for all students participating in the program including availability of non-electronic materials to students who do not have access to the required technology.
- Ensures appropriate learning opportunities for students with special needs.
- Ensures the monitoring and verification of each student's electronic participation.
- Addresses the extent to which student participation is within the student's control as to the time, pace, and means of learning.
- Provides effective notice to students and their parents or guardians of the particular days for eLearning.
- Provides staff and students with adequate training for eLearning days' participation.
- Ensures an opportunity for any collective bargaining negotiations that would be legally required.
- Reviews the program as implemented to address difficulties confronted through revision or otherwise.
- Ensures that the protocol regarding general expectations and responsibilities of the program is communicated to teachers, staff, students, and parents at least 30 days prior to utilization.
- Ensures all teachers and staff who may be involved in the provision of eLearning have access to any and all hardware and software that may be required for the program.
- Will be verified by the Regional Office of Education for the school district to ensure access for all students.
- Will be implemented for a period of 3 years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) prior to renewal.

ADOPTED: March 16, 2020, by a roll call vote as follows:

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABENT/OTHER: _____

President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Secretary, Board of Education