



MID-STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION

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STRONGER TOGETHER SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

Thrive MSSE Public Day School E-Learning Plan

E-Learning days are designed to avoid interruptions in instruction that occur when school cannot be held due to severe weather conditions. They may also be used when a school must be closed due to "an act of God, or as occasioned by conditions outside the control of the school district which poses a hazardous threat to the health and safety of pupils". School districts participating in the program are not required to use E-Learning days nor do they have to exhaust all of their emergency days before using an E-Learning day. Any day approved as an E-Learning day may be counted as a day of attendance and would not be required to be "made up" at the end of the school year.

Parents will not be expected to assume the role of the teacher. Our plan will ensure that all teachers will be available to assist students with their assignments during the hours of the regular school day. The assignments for E-Learning are designed to be engaging and sometimes fun and will allow students to learn while enjoying being at home during a snow day. Students will be required to log into their assigned google classroom classes or check in with their teachers if completing other tasks; via email, google classroom, or Remind/Parent Square app. If students are unable to participate during the E-Learning day, accommodations will be made to assist them in making up the missed work. Our plan is to conduct E-Learning days through the use of the students' Chromebooks. As a result, Internet connectivity would be a great asset for all students. If you currently do not have an Internet connection at home, work can be provided in paper form or made up at a later date. Please reach out if you would like assistance on how to gain access on internet services. If students do not have the required technology at home during an E-Learning day, non-electronic materials will be made available to those students on a case-by-case basis.

Overview of E-Learning Plan:

- All students will log into their assigned google classroom assigned classes or check in with the teacher if work is provided in an alternate format.
- All students will receive instruction from their teachers using Google Classroom, E-mail, via Remind/Parent Square App, or via phone.
- Illinois State Board of Education requires students to log 5 hours of learning during an E-Learning day. Teachers will assign activities to complete to earn their 5 hours.
- All teachers will ensure that all assignments are subject-matter-appropriate and appropriate for each student's individual needs. Teachers will also provide support for all students, following each student's IEP.
 - Assignments will be posted by 9:00 am the day of the E-Learning day. Please check your school email or Remind/Parent Square App regularly for updates.
- Teachers will be checking emails, Remind/Parent Square messages, and Google Classroom comments routinely throughout the day during normal school hours(8:00 am- 3:30 pm). Please be patient as teachers will respond as soon as they are able.
- Students are expected to complete the learning activities and assignments that are provided for them daily. These activities are classroom assignments and may be graded. This does not mean they will be in front of a device or computer ALL day.
- If you have questions or concerns about assignments, please contact your child's teacher through email or the Remind/Parent Square App.
- If you have technical issues or have any further questions/concerns, please contact the Principal, Barb Daugherty via email or Remind/Parent Square App.

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Thrive MSSE Public Day School E-Learning Plan

Introduction:

Public Act 101-0012 of the 101st Illinois General Assembly permits local school districts to establish an E-Learning plan to address student learning in a remote environment. Thrive MSSE Public Day School will utilize E-Learning to provide meaningful education to students during emergency days. Since we are a 1:1 school, students already have considerable experience with digital learning. This plan allows our teachers to develop engaging and meaningful lessons that students can complete outside of school while complying with the statutory requirements. Due to the recent state legislation and our current technology infrastructure, the school can meet the statutory requirements for E-Learning days. All students are issued and use a Chromebook device. These devices enable students to use digital tools to access research-proven learning opportunities from remote locations. The approval of the motion to Adopt E-Learning for Emergency Days allows us to move forward with E-Learning days.

Teaching, Learning, and Curricular Connections:

Student learning activities will be tied to the existing curriculum of Thrive. Learning objectives align with the content and skills students must master to be successful in each subject. Teachers will develop activities aligned with the school's established curriculum. Schedules and lessons will follow the typical day, with adjustments to account for the change in platform as necessary. Lessons should align with the student's current instructional program (eg., reading, math, science, social studies, etc.) and continue learning progressions in the least disruptive way possible. Instructional activities should be varied, balanced, and meet the hourly requirement of the E-Learning plan/school day. Most activities will be completed independently by the student, but some may require some assistance from a parent or caregiver. If someone is not available to assist a student in such instances and the student is unable to complete the assigned work during the E-Learning Day, the missed work will be addressed similarly as school work assigned during a student's absence. This may include in-school assistance with this work when students are able to return to their classrooms. E-Learning plans will be differentiated to meet the unique needs of students receiving special education services.

Student & Staff Access and Connectivity:

All students are issued a 1:1 device. All Thrive staff have Mid-State-issued laptops and/or Chromebook devices that they can take home. Staff will utilize Google Classroom to provide students with detailed information regarding assignments and learning activity resources. These activities can be completed on any device including home and/or district-provided computers. Learning experiences may also be non-digital in nature if the activities are meaningful and aligned to the school curriculum. There will be printed packets of lessons available for students without access to an electronic device and/or the internet. Teachers will be available to interact with their students digitally during contract time on the E-Learning Days. Students may also collaborate with their peers on E-Learning assignments through online learning platforms such as Google Classroom.

Student Attendance:

Monitoring of student progress during the E-Learning Day will be made through the learning management systems of Google Classroom. Student attendance will be determined by the student's completion of the learning activities performed on these days.

Special Education Services: Students will be afforded all reasonable accommodations and modifications outlined in their IEP. Teachers will be available during the hours of instruction to provide additional assistance to students. Related service providers will also utilize E-Learning to create opportunities for the delivery of their services. Teachers will follow up with each student on their caseload after each E-Learning day to ensure understanding and assignment completion.

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Staff Training:

Continual professional learning regarding research-based and effective instruction via digital platforms is provided. All staff will be available to support staff in the implementation of E-Learning and on E-Learning days.

Benefits of E-Learning for Emergency Days:

- Allows for uninterrupted learning enabling students to continue meaningful instruction consistent with state standards
- Allows for a consistent end of the school year, avoiding extending the school year
- Ensures the required clock hours of instruction for each student
- Promotes research-based 21st-century learning approaches
- Promotes continued learning beyond the school building

E-Learning Structures & Rationale: If the school is using an E-Learning day, the school will communicate this information to parents, students, and staff members through our school messaging system, phone call, email, website, and social media accounts. Thrive will also provide directions for finding the learning activities. The school will make every attempt to provide staff with the necessary planning time to collaborate on E-Learning activities. This will allow parents, students, and educators to make E-Learning plans that advance curricular objectives and subject-level instruction. E-Learning days also provide for a higher degree of continuity because students can continue learning even if the school building is closed. Attendance on the E-Learning day will be determined by the completion of E-Learning day assignments. Students will have the same make-up days as outlined in each school's handbook to complete their E-Learning assignments. The additional time allows students the flexibility to demonstrate the learning at their individual pace, especially important to special education programming. Student attendance on the E-Learning day will count as a regular attendance day for all students demonstrating assignment completion. Communication will play a critical role in implementing the E-Learning plan on emergency days. The school will develop a communication plan to introduce families to E-Learning and E-Learning related logistics. Administrators and teachers will have support in implementing this plan before the implementation of E-Learning Days. Families can have access to the E-Learning lessons, supports, and FAQs well in advance of any weather events or other emergencies.

School Responsibilities:

- If the E-Learning Day option is exercised, it is the school's responsibility to make sure the students and parents can access the E-Learning activities/assignments and understand the expectations prior to the actual E-Learning day.
- Provide training for parents and students.
- It is also the school's responsibility to ensure that students have the relevant assistive technology available when an E-Learning day is implemented.

Communication:

- It is expected that educators are notified of the emergency day per the usual Thrive communication protocols.
- If the school is using an E-Learning day, the school will communicate this information to parents, students, and staff members through our school messaging system, phone call, email, website, and social media accounts.
- Educators will plan and revise appropriate E-Learning activities as needed throughout the school year. Teachers may modify these activities, and updated lessons shall be posted by 9:00a.m. on the emergency event date. Student attendance will be determined by the completion of the posted lessons. Students will have the same make-up days as outlined in each school's handbook to complete their E-Learning assignments.

Learning Experience Expectations:

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- Teachers will respond in a timely manner to student questions through email and Google Classroom during the normal work hours on the E-Learning day (8:00am- 3:30pm).
- To ensure and verify at least 5 clock hours of instruction or school work, as required under Section 10-19.05, for each student participating in an E-Learning day, Thrive MSSE Public Day School E-Learning schedule is as follows:

8:00- 9:00 am- Planning and preparation

9:00 am- Learning modules posted and period of availability, student engagement, instruction, supervision, and support as needed begins

9:00 am- 2:00 pm- 5-hour block of student engagement, instruction, supervision, monitoring, and support as needed

2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.- Duty Free

3:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.- Verification/assessment of student work/engagement; planning/prep

- Learning activities should include a way for students to demonstrate or provide evidence of learning. Students are not required to have a completed “product” for each activity. For example, parents may confirm reading minutes and online platforms may record engaged learning time.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Required Provisions for e-Learning:

- Ensure and verify at least 5 clock hours of instruction or school work, as required under Section 10-19.05, for each student participating in an e-learning day
- Ensure access from home or other appropriate remote facility for all students participating, including computers, the Internet, and other forms of electronic communication that must be utilized in the proposed program
- Ensure that non-electronic materials are made available for students participating in the program who do not have access to the required technology or to participating teachers or students who are prevented from accessing the required technology
- Ensure learning opportunities are for the individual needs of each student
- Monitor and verify each student's electronic participation
- Address the extent to which student participation is within the student's control as to the time, pace, and means of learning
- Provide effective notice to students and their parents or guardians of the use of particular days for e-learning
- Provide staff and students with adequate training for e-learning days' participation
- Ensure that all teachers and staff who may be involved in the provisions of e-learning have access to any and all hardware and software that may be required for the program
- Ensure an opportunity for any collective bargaining negotiations with representatives of the school district's employees that would be legally required, and including all classifications of school district employees who are represented by collective bargaining agreements and who would be affected in the event of an e-learning day
- Review and revise the program as implemented to address the difficulties confronted
- Ensure that the protocol regarding general expectations and responsibilities of the program is communicated to teachers, staff, and students at least 30 days prior to utilizing an e-learning day