

Parkland School District **Flexible Instructional Day (FID)** *Parents/ Students*

A Flexible Instructional Day (FID) is a tool available to public school entities to be used as an alternative approach to delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in customary manner. With the passage of Act 64 of 2019, section 1506 was added to the Public-School Code. Public school entities now can develop a Flexible Instructional Day Program, enabling the public-school entities to meet the 180-instructional day requirement of section 1501. The FID program may be online, offline, or a combination of the two.

FIDs are intended to support public school entities in cases when circumstances (i.e. a disease epidemic, a hazardous weather condition, a law enforcement emergency, the inoperability of school buses or other equipment necessary to the public school entity's operation, damage to a school building , or a temporary circumstance rendering any portion of a school building unfit or unsafe for use) prevent delivery of instruction in its customary manner or location.

In order to implement a FID program, the FID application must be approved by the local School Board of Directors prior to acceptance by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The Parkland School District Board of School Directors approved the District's FID plan on July 28, 2020. The District has received notification from PDE that its application has been accepted during the time period 2021-2024. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has given the District permission to operate a FID program for the next three years, through the 2021-2024 school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

How did the Parkland School District explore and prepare for the use of a Flexible Instructional Day?

This fall, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provided school districts with an opportunity to apply for the use of Flexible Instructional Days when schools are cancelled due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. PDE required schools to file an application, develop model lesson plans and address various criteria, which was submitted to PDE in September. In October, the Parkland School District was approved to implement up to five FIDs each year.

How will families know that the school is calling a FID?

Once it appears that a Flexible Instructional Day may be possible due to impending bad weather or other emergency, parents will be notified. Students will leave school the day before a possible FID with an understanding of, and access to, work that will need to be completed on the Flexible Instructional Day, in the event school is closed. That same day, parents will receive a phone call/email/text from the district stating that, due to the impending weather, if school would be closed, the district will be instituting a Flexible Instructional Day. This message will also be posted on the district website, Facebook and Twitter. As soon as the decision to close school is made, the Flexible Instructional Day will be announced along with the school closure.

What is expected of students on a FID?

Students are expected to log on to their teacher's Schoology account to access their assignment information. If a student does not have internet access or equipment, the student will have three (3) days to make up the assignment and turn it in for full credit. In the event of an extended closure because of power outages, the District will provide the student with paper packets for each lesson. Students must be aware of individual teacher policies regarding incomplete and failed assignments. Students must also report any extenuating circumstances that may prevent them from completing the FID assignment within the required time.

Students are expected to complete all FID assignments during the FID. Assignments may be submitted electronically or turned in per the directions of each teacher. Students who are ill during a FID or who cannot access or complete the assignment due to a power outage, internet outage and/or similar problems that may occur have three school days following the FID to submit FID assignments.

Students can contact their teachers from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. to ask any questions through Schoology (virtual office), email or calling their teacher's classroom school phone and leave a voice message. Teachers will monitor Schoology and check their email and voice messages throughout the day.

Actively engage in Flexible Learning by:

- Monitoring Schoology daily or work on packet daily
- Establishing daily routines for engaging in the learning experiences
- Being responsible for independent learning and maintaining a positive growth mindset
- Engaging in all learning with academic honesty
- Being an advocate and communicating with your teachers if you require additional support
- Complying with School Internet Safety Policies including expectations for online etiquette

What if I have a student with an IEP

Special and regular education teachers will work together to design lessons that incorporate any modifications, specially designed instruction, and services identified in student's IEP, GIEP, and/or 504 Plan. Any related services (PT, OT, Speech, etc.) scheduled during the FID will be rescheduled in make-up sessions according to the frequency requirements of the students' plan. Student's case manager will discuss FIDs at the students' annual IEP, GIEP and/or 504 meeting. If an IEP, GIEP and/or 504 team determines that a student cannot receive appropriate education on a FID day or if the related services cannot be made up in a reasonable time frame, the student will be provided compensatory education in conjunction with Extended School Year Services.

What happens if a student does not complete the FID assignments?

The student will lose the point value or grade for the assignment. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignments within the **three-day** window. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit a child from completing the assignment satisfactorily. Please be aware of individual teacher policies regarding incomplete or failed assignments.

Describe the procedure for taking student attendance during a Flexible Instructional Day:

Student attendance on a Flexible Instructional Day will be determined within **three days** after the Flexible Instructional Day through completion of lessons assigned that day. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit their child from completing the assignments satisfactorily.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments within **three days** of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to daycare when school is cancelled?

If the student cannot access the internet or take hard copy of the learning activities and assignments to the daycare to complete that day, they would have **three days** to complete them.

How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignment?

Teachers have designed learning activities and assignments that are equivalent in time to a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Teachers will make every effort to assign an approximate time to each activity or assignment.

Are there still make-up dates built into the district calendar?

Yes, make-up dates will continue to be built into the district calendar. A FID is an option that may be used in place of one or more cancelled school days but may not be used for all cancelled school days in any given year.

Will every school day that is cancelled because of inclement weather be considered a FID?

A FID may be utilized after the District uses the snow days built into this year's school calendar. The number of days available is dependent on when the inclement weather occurs. The first three (3) days are made up as teacher professional development, day four (4) is in February and day five (5) is in April. Days four (4) and (5) would not be available to use after those dates have passed.

What if a student does not have access to a computer and/or internet to access the lesson or complete activities?

The teacher may provide students with an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the FID. Or, the student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have **three days** to complete the required learning activities.