



Scranton School District

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Flexible Instruction Day (FID) Information



Throughout the course of a school year, there are often days when school must be canceled. Most often, those closures are for poor weather conditions. In July 2019, Governor Tom Wolf signed a bill that gives Pennsylvania school districts greater flexibility in providing quality instruction while also meeting the time and day requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Flexible instruction allows students to complete class work at home should a situation occur which would prevent normal operations in one school or throughout the district. These situations include 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. Flexible instructional programs may be online, offline or a combination of the two. Flexible instructional days eliminate the need for a make-up day since students are completing class work at home.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently approved the Scranton School District's application to participate in Pennsylvania's new flexible instructional program. The Scranton School District's flexible instructional program will be a combination of online and offline assignments. The Scranton School District plans to implement flexible instructional days (FIDs) during a snowstorm, poor road conditions, extreme cold weather or other situations in which one or more school buildings must be closed due to

an unplanned circumstance. These types of closures, however, will not automatically become flexible instructional days. The district will determine whether a flexible instructional day will be called on a case-by-case basis. The Scranton School District may use no more than five (5) flexible instructional days per school year.

HOW WILL FAMILIES BE NOTIFIED OF A FID?

Families will be notified of a flexible instructional day in the same way the Scranton School District communicates information about cancellations. Notifications by automated phone call, district social media sites, district website, and local media will indicate that a flexible instructional day will be implemented. Once again, a school closing message will clearly communicate when a flexible instructional day will be used. On non-flexible instructional days, the school closing message will not make mention of a flexible instructional day being utilized.

WHAT WILL A FID LOOK LIKE?

On a flexible instructional day, students will not report to school. All students will receive assignments and learning activities via Google Classroom for each subject that would have taken place during that regular school day, including specials classes. For instance, if the flexible instructional day is implemented on a Tuesday, and an elementary center student typically has music class on Tuesday, the student will complete a music assignment or activity during the flexible instructional day.

HOW WILL ATTENDANCE BE RECORDED ON A FID?

Attendance for students will be recorded when students submit their FID assignments within three (3) days. Students who do not submit completed FID assignments will be marked absent, and a valid excuse will be required within three (3) days, according to the district's attendance policy. Absences on FID days will count toward students' accumulated absences for the school year.

HOW WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE ASSIGNMENTS ON A FID?

Students will receive their assignments and activities for a flexible instructional day through Google Classroom. Assignments and activities for a student's classes will be posted in Google classroom by these times:

GRADES PreK-5: Assignments posted in Google Classroom by 8:30 AM on a FID

GRADES 6-8: Assignments posted in Google Classroom by 9:05 AM on a FID

GRADES 9-12: Assignments posted in Google Classroom by 8:30 AM on a FID

WHEN IS FID ASSIGNMENTS DUE?

Flexible instructional assignments will be due within three (3) days of the FID. For example, if a flexible instructional day is called on a Wednesday, the FID assignments would be due on Monday, the third day following the flexible instructional day.

This allows students who may not have internet access to acquire the needed materials and assignments the next school day and have enough time to complete them. It will also allow students who may need additional assistance completing an assignment to receive that help. Any student who does not submit the completed FID assignments within three (3) days will receive a zero.

FID ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A STUDENT WITH AN IEP:

Flexible instructional day lessons/activities will be adapted for students with an IEP. If a student has difficulty completing work assigned on the FID, staff will work with the student upon his/her return so that the student gets credit for the assigned lessons.

Related services such as speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. that typically take place on a day when a flexible instructional day occurs, will be made up on a day after students return to school.

WHAT IF A STUDENT NEEDS ASSISTANCE ON A FID?

Teachers will be available for assistance via email and Google classroom on a flexible instructional day. Email is the preferred method of communication. The school nurse will also be available via email. Regular school hours are:

HIGH SCHOOLS: 8:05 AM to 2:50 PM

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS: 8:45 AM to 3:30 PM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS: 8:10 AM to 2:25 PM

QUESTIONS ABOUT A FID?

If you have any questions about the Scranton School District's flexible instructional program, please contact your building principal.