

Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix C

Date: March 15, 2022

Title: eLearning Plan - Proposal for Renewal

Contacts: Victor Simon – vsimon@gower62.com

Background: For more information on the eLearning Program in Gower, [Superintendent Report Appendix D - eLearning Program Update/Approval for Adoption: April 30, 2019](#) may be a helpful document for review. Additionally, the www.gower62.com website is a valuable source of information and the [eLearning page](#), located under the 'Parent Info' tab, contains more information about this program.

Since adopting an eLearning program in Gower, eLearning Days were held on the following dates with average attendance rates at 97%+:

- Nov. 22, 2022 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day) - Scheduled
- Feb. 17, 2022
- Feb. 2, 2022
- Nov. 23, 2021 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Feb. 16, 2021
- Jan. 26, 2021
- Nov. 24, 2020 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day) - Canceled due to COVID-19
- Nov. 26, 2019 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Jan. 28, 2019 - eLearning was available outside of the ISBE pilot for the 2018-2019 school year only
- Jan. 30, 2019 - eLearning was available outside of the ISBE pilot for the 2018-2019 school year only
- Jan. 31, 2019 - eLearning was available outside of the ISBE pilot for the 2018-2019 school year only
- Nov. 26, 2018 - Traditional Emergency School Closure (Winter and Blizzard Warning for area)

The Gower 'Practice eLearning Day' is held each November as part of a Teacher Institute Day to ensure preparedness for inclement weather. Participation rates are above 97% at each school campus. School district administrators continue to lobby state agencies for a practice eLearning day to be codified into the IL School Code and accompanying rules and regulations for eLearning.

Current State: Before its adoption by a school board, and in accordance with [Public Act 101-0012](#) effective July 1, 2019, the school board must hold a public hearing on a school district's initial proposal for an e-learning program or for renewal of such a program, at a regular or special meeting of the school board, in which the terms of the proposal must be substantially presented and an opportunity for allowing public comments must be provided. Notice of such public hearing must be provided at least 10 days prior to the hearing by: (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district; (2) written or electronic notice designed to reach the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the school district; and (3) written or electronic notice designed to reach any exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school district employees and all those employees not in a collective bargaining unit. In addition, the regional office of education for the school district must timely verify that a proposal for an e-learning program has met the requirements in *IL School Code* and that the proposal contains provisions designed to reasonably and practicably accomplish the required elements as detailed in *IL School Code*.

- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district;
 - Publication 3/2/22 *DuPage County Chronicle*

[Back to Results](#)

LEGAL NOTICE -Published 03/02 - LEGAL NOTICE GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 PUBLIC HEARING (Published in DuPage County Chronicle on March 2, 2022) The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for the renewal of our district's eLearning program recommended for continuation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent Info tab on our district website at www.gower62.com. The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2022 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527. 012-190990

SEARCH FOR:

gower

Search

VIEW

DuPage County Chronicle
Wednesday, March 02, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE -Published 03/02 - LEGAL NOTICE GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 PUBLIC HEARING (Published in DuPage County Chronicle on March 2, 2022) The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for the renewal of our district's eLear ... **click 'view' to open the full text.**

Websource: <https://www.publicnoticeillinois.com/RecentNoticesByPubl.aspx?id=808>

- Written or electronic notice designed to reach the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the district
 - District eblasts (via MailChimp service) and posted as a [Community Update on 2/17/22](#)

Gower School District Community Newsletter February 17, 2022

[View this email in your browser](#)

Additional Public Notice: The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal to renew our current eLearning program for implementation district-wide in accordance with Illinois State Board of Education rules and regulations that currently call for renewal of the program at least once every three years. To learn more about the eLearning program in Gower which has served as an effective model used to preserve continuity of learning within the approved school calendar and in lieu of what would otherwise be Emergency School Closure Days, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent Info tab on our district website at www.gower62.com or by using this [direct link](#). The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2022 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

- District website web-posting/*District News* (2/24/22)

2/24/22, 2:56 PM

E-Learning Day Renewal: Public Hearing March 15, 2022 | Gower School District 62

DISTRICT | GOWER MIDDLE | GOWER WEST | RECENT COURT RULING AND DISTRICT UPDATE | REGISTRATION 22-23

HOME DISTRICT INFO BOARD OF EDUCATION RETURN TO SCHOOL (COVID-19) PARENT INFO FACILITIES USE EMPLOYMENT CONTACT US

GOWER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOWER DISTRICT NEWS

E-Learning Day Renewal: Public Hearing March 15, 2022

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for the renewal of our eLearning program recommended for continuation district-wide. To learn more about the eLearning program recommendation, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent Info tab on our district website at www.gower62.com or by using this [direct link](#). The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2022 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527. IL Public Act 102-584; E-Learning Days was effective July 1, 2019 and can be found using this [link](#).

← Gower Cares

- Written or electronic notice designed to reach any exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school district employees and all those employees not in a collective bargaining unit.
 - All-Staff memo emailed 2/25/22; 3:31 p.m. via HR Coordinator



Gower School District 62
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527
(P) 630-986-5383 (F) 630-323-3074
www.gower62.com



TO: All Gower School District Employees

FROM: Victor Simon III, Superintendent of Schools

RE: Notice of Public Hearing: e-Learning Renewal Proposal, March 15, 2022

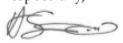
DATE: February 25, 2022

As part of the formal renewal process for the eLearning program approved in 2019 recommended for continued use in place of what would otherwise be emergency days through for a period of three years or in accordance with Illinois State Board of Education renewal rules and regulations, a public hearing must be held on the renewal proposal. In addition, written or electronic notice designed to reach any exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school district employees (members of the Gower Education Association, GEA) and all those employees not in a collective bargaining unit (all remaining district employees not part of the GEA) must be provided. The following serves as such notice:

LEGAL NOTICE
GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62
PUBLIC HEARING
(Published in DuPage County Chronicle on March 2, 2022)

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for the renewal of our district's eLearning program recommended for continuation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent Info tab on our district website at www.gower62.com [or by using this [direct link](#)]. The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2022 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527. IL Public Act 102-584; E-Learning Days was effective July 1, 2019 [and can be found using this [link](#)].

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact your direct supervisor or reach out to me directly.

Respectfully,

Victor Simon III

Children at their Best!

District officials have maintained communication with officials from the DuPage Regional Office of Education and have made all local eLearning materials available for review and have requested a timely review pending the outcome of the proposed Board Resolution to renew the eLearning program as recommended. A representative from the DuPage Regional Office of Education has acknowledged the request. The local eLearning plan developed in Gower provides for the required elements as detailed in *IL School Code* (italicized print below) as follows:

- *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;*
 - Gower's eLearning schedule accounts for at least 5 clock hours:
 - 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. - Planning/preparation
 - 8:30 a.m. - Learning modules posted and period of availability, student engagement, instruction, supervision and support as needed begins
 - 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - 5-hour block of student engagement, instruction, supervision, monitoring and support as needed
 - 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Duty Free
 - 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. - Verification/assessment of student work/engagement; planning/prep. (e-Learning)
 - 3:20 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Planning/preparation, professional responsibilities
- *to 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;*
 - Per initial [Recommendation for eLearning Days, 12-18-18](#) and restated again as part of this renewal process: Our commitment to being a [FutureReady](#) school district was made clear through Board action in Sept. 2014 as well as through the implementation of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#) designed in 2013 which continue to impact our Teaching and Learning model to this day. It is clear that our district has the infrastructure and professional capacity in place to support the adoption of eLearning days in place of traditional emergency days. Annual Home Connectivity Surveys indicate that more than 98% of our students have access to reliable internet service at home. Measured in single digits at each school campus, school staff work with individual families to accommodate as needed (e.g. Loaner WiFi 'Hot Spot', Reduced Rate Programs, Direct Financial Assistance, etc.).
- *to 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;*
 - It is important to emphasize that the 'e' in an eLearning Day represents 'engagement' more so than 'electronic' given the (state) guidance around building a definition of 'an instructional day'
 - Per the [eLearning FAQ](#):
 - If my child has a question about an assignment, what do we do?
 - Teachers and specialists will be available for support from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
 - Parents/students can email their teacher/specialist, do a virtual chat with their teacher, post a discussion question in Schoology, or call and leave a voicemail
 - Teachers can retrieve school voicemails remotely.
 - What If there is a power outage within the community on the emergency day?
 - The District would likely adjust the due date for the eLearning Modules if needed and adjust attendance accordingly.
- *to ensure appropriate learning opportunities for students with special needs;*
 - Individual student needs are addressed at the teacher-design level of the eLearning Modules utilized for an eLearning day, as they are through lesson plan design in any regular student attendance day, and customized according to, in this case, an Individualized Education Programs (IEP) in place for students with special needs.
 - Related certified service providers and/or specialists are available for student support, individualized or otherwise, according to the same schedule as teachers

- *to monitor and verify each student's electronic participation;*
 - Per the [eLearning FAQ](#):
 - How will I (or my child) verify that the learning activities or assignments are complete?
 - Since the work is due at 9:00 pm on the emergency day, teachers will be checking in the work on the next day to determine participation and verify attendance
 - If an extended due date is required, please contact the teacher directly to discuss the circumstances
 - How is attendance recorded?
 - Completion of 3 of the 3 eLearning Modules will be recorded as a full day
 - Completion of 1 or 2 of the 3 eLearning Modules will be recorded as a half day
 - Completion of 0 of the 3 eLearning Modules will be recorded as an absence
- *to address the extent to which student participation is within the student's control as to the time, pace, and means of learning;*
 - It is important to emphasize that the 'e' in an eLearning Day represents 'engagement' more so than 'electronic' given the (state) guidance around building a definition of 'an instructional day'
 - Individual student needs are addressed at the teacher-design level of the eLearning Modules utilized for an eLearning day, as they are through lesson plan design in any regular student attendance day
- *to provide effective notice to students and their parents or guardians of the use of particular days for e-learning;*
 - Per the information as listed on our district's [eLearning webpage](#):
 - e-Learning Days held in lieu Emergency School Closure Days were announced via e-blast, robocall, website publication, and Emergency Closing Center postings and this strategy will continue to be used moving forward
- *to provide staff and students with adequate training for e-learning days' participation;*
 - A 'Practice eLearning Day' is held each year and incorporated into our regular [school calendar](#) as part of a November Teacher Institute Day
 - School district administrators continue to lobby state agencies for a practice eLearning day to be codified into the IL School Code and accompanying rules and regulations for eLearning.
- *to 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;*
 - The Board and GEA have built a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to ensure appropriate use of eLearning Days and program design in accordance with the current [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)
- *to review and revise the program as implemented to address difficulties confronted; and*
 - The continued use of our eLearning plan as detailed on our district's [eLearning webpage](#) demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement as it relates to the eLearning Plan
 - An anonymous eLearning feedback form has been added to the district's [eLearning webpage](#)
- *To 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.*
 - Notification is provided through start-of-year processes and training (e.g. Teacher Institute, Staff Handbooks, Parent and Student Handbooks, Open House, Curriculum Night, etc.) and sent each year via Community eBlast as well as a full 'Practice eLearning Day' held each November.
- *The school board's approval of a district's initial e-learning program and renewal of the e-learning program shall be for a term of 3 years. The State Board of Education may adopt rules consistent with the provision of this Section.*
 - Noted by Gower School District Officials. This renewal will be effective from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Future State:

- Continue to update the district's [eLearning webpage](#) (e.g. FAQ, school presentations/overviews, etc.)
- Continue to serve as a resource to other school district's interested in implementing a similar plan.
- Secure timely review of the district's eLearning plan from the DuPage Regional Office of Education to ensure required specifications are met
- Recommend approval for a Board Resolution to renew the eLearning Plan districtwide
 - *I move that the Board of Education approve the eLearning program as presented and renew the eLearning program for implementation district-wide in accordance with relevant statutes and/or regulatory action(s)/guidance in place currently, anticipated, or put into place during implementation.*

Use your "Mouse" or "Tab" key to move through the fields and check boxes. After completing last field, save document to hard drive to make future updates or click print button.



Illinois State Board of Education

e-Learning Program Verification Form

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. Before adoption, the school board must hold a public hearing for initial proposal or renewal of e-learning program by:

- District Name: Gower School District 62
- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least 10 days prior to hearing
Date of Publication: March 2, 2022
- Written or electronic notice designed to reach the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the district
Date of Notification: Feb. 17 & 24, 2022
- Written or electronic notice designed to reach any exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school district employees and all those employees not in a collective bargaining unit
Date of Notification: Feb. 25, 2022
- The school board's approval of a district's initial e-learning program and renewal of the e-learning program shall be for a term of 3 years
Date of Public Hearing: March 15, 2022 Date of Board Meeting/Resolution: March 15, 2022

Specifically, the regional office of education or intermediate service center for the school district must verify that the e-learning proposal will: 1) ensure access for all students; ensure that the specific needs of all students are met, including special education students and English learners; ensure that all mandates are still met using the e-Learning program adopted; and 2) contain provisions designed to reasonably and practicably accomplish the following:

- 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 appropriate learning opportunities for students with special needs
- 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 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

Victor Simon III		March 15, 2022
Verified by: School Dist. Superintendent (printed)	Signature*	Date
Verified by: Regional Superintendent (printed)	Signature	Date

*Supporting documentation for any/all items listed may be required by the regional office of education or intermediate service center.

PrintReset Form

RESOLUTION NO. 22-R06

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Gower Elementary School District 62 is renewing 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 Gower Elementary School District 62 that it 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 the 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 or to the participating teachers or students who are prevented from accessing 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 (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25) prior to renewal.

ADOPTED March 15, 2022, by a roll call vote as follows:

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABSENT/OTHER: _____

President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Secretary, Board of Education