Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix D

Date: **April 30, 2019**

Title: **eLearning Program Update**

Contacts: **Victor Simon –** vsimon@gower62.com

Background: For background information on the eLearning Program in Gower, the following reports are recommended to be reviewed/downloaded:

- Recommendation for eLearning Days in Place of Emergency Days, 12-18-18
  - Presented initial eLearning plan to be used district-wide for Board approval
  - Provides useful background information regarding the new flexibility granted to local school districts related to the definition of an instructional day and the subsequent plan implemented in Gower.
  - Emphasizes the 'e' in an eLearning Day represents 'engagement' more so than 'electronic' given the state-level guidance around building a definition of 'an instructional day' and to establish clear expectations around 'student attendance'
    - Recommendation approved by Board by a vote of 7-0 in favor of plan
  - Plan submitted to Sen. Curran, member of the Senate Education Committee Jan 31, 2019 along with recommendation for possible amendment to Senate Bill 28
- eLearning Plan Update, 2-19-19
  - Presented to Board for feedback and revision
  - Included attendance data, student, staff, and parent feedback for the eLearning Days used in Gower on Mon., Jan. 21, 2019; Mon., Jan. 28, 2019; Wed., Jan. 29, 2019; and Thurs. Jan 30., 2019
    - The variance in student attendance data on eLearning days and regularly scheduled school was 4.5% after analyzing attendance data for Jan. 21 as well as the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 2 indicating a fair amount of consistency; particularly when considering that engagement is required for attendance on eLearning days
    - An early analysis of the parent feedback collected after the second eLearning day held on Jan. 28, 2019 indicates that feedback coded as 'generally positive' outnumbered feedback coded as 'generally negative' at a ratio of roughly 4:1 among the sampling of 60+ individual parent comments.
    - An early analysis of the student feedback collected after the second eLearning day held on Jan. 28, 2019 indicates that feedback coded as 'generally positive' outnumbered feedback coded as 'generally negative' at a ratio of roughly 6:1 among the sampling of 120+ individual parent comments.
  - Included "key takeaways/points for consideration" for plan modification
- eLearning Program Update, 3-19-19
  - Provided an update on the current legislation (Senate Bill 28) that was passed by the Senate Education Committee (3/12/19)
  - Provided details related to the formal process to approve/adopt an eLearning Program in a local school district (as anticipated by current legislation)
  - Provided details from the Gower eLearning plan to account for provisions to be verified by the regional office of education for the school district as part of the formal approval process

- In addition, the www.gower62.com website is a valuable source of information and the eLearning page, located under the 'Curriculum' tab, contains more information about this program and can be found by using this direct link.

Current State:

Since the March. 19, 2019 eLearning Plan Update provided to the Board of Education, Senate Bill 28 continues to move through the State legislature and is expected to pass after the Capitol recess period and is also expected to be signed by the Governor to become law in expedited fashion. The bill was passed by the Senate and is currently in the to be approved in the Senate as well as the House in the coming weeks prior to becoming law.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
1/10/2019	Senate	Filed with Secretary by Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
1/10/2019	**Senate**	**First Reading**
1/10/2019	Senate	Referred to Assignments
1/23/2019	Senate	Assigned to Education
1/30/2019	Senate	Do Pass Education; 016-000-000
1/30/2019	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading January 31, 2019
2/6/2019	**Senate**	**Second Reading**
2/6/2019	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading February 7, 2019
3/4/2019	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by Sen. Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant
3/4/2019	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Referred to Assignments
3/5/2019	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Assignments Refers to Education
3/12/2019	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Recommend Do Adopt Education; 012-000-000
3/15/2019	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor Sen. Chuck Weaver
3/20/2019	Senate	Recalled to Second Reading
3/20/2019	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Adopted; Bertino-Tarrant
3/20/2019	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading
3/27/2019	**Senate**	**Third Reading - Passed; 053-000-000**
3/27/2019	House	Arrived in House
3/27/2019	House	Chief House Sponsor Rep. Fred Crespo
3/27/2019	**House**	**First Reading**
3/27/2019	House	Referred to Rules Committee
4/9/2019	**House**	**Assigned to Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies Committee**

Websource:
http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=28&GAID=15&GA=101&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=114205&SessionID=108

A link to the full text of Senate Bill 28, Amendment #1 is included here for more information:
http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/101/SB/PDF/10100SB0028sam001.pdf

According to the amendment expected to become statute this spring, a school board may, by resolution, adopt a program for e-learning days 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. Before its adoption, the school board must hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-learning 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:

- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district;
  - Publication 4/17/19 *DuPage County Chronicle*

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE

The DuPage County Chronicle, a secular newspaper, has been continuously published weekly for more than fifty (50) weeks prior to the first publication of the attached notice, is published in the city of Wheaton, county of DuPage, State of Illinois, is of general circulation throughout that county and surrounding areas, and is a newspaper as defined by 715 ILCS 5/5.

This notice, a copy of which is attached, was published in the DuPage County Chronicle namely one time.

The publication of the notice was made in the newspaper, dated and published on April 17, 2019. The notice was also placed on a statewide public notice website as required by 715 ILCS 5/2.1.

In witness, the DuPage County Chronicle has signed this certificate by its registered agent.

The DuPage County Chronicle

By:

Registered Agent

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
-Published 04/17 -

LEGAL NOTICE
GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62
PUBLIC HEARING

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-learning program recommended for implementation district-wide.
The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Published in DuPage County Chronicle on April 17, 2019
Victor Simon III, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Gower School District 62
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd
Willowbrook, IL 60527
630-986-5383
www.gower62.com
012-88355

LEGAL NOTICE
-Published 04/17 -

LEGAL NOTICE
GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62
PUBLIC HEARING

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-learning program recommended for implementation district-wide.
The public hearing will take place at the beginning of the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Published in DuPage County Chronicle on April 17, 2019
Victor Simon III, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Gower School District 62
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd
Willowbrook, IL 60527
630-986-5383
www.gower62.com
012-88355

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
  - School eblasts and District website web-posting/*District News* (4/18/19)

A Message from the Gower Board of Education

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-Learning program recommended for implementation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the e-Learning page under the Curriculum 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 April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Source: Message from Gower West via MailChimp sent to parent list sent 4/18/19; 3:14 p.m.

Dear Gower Middle Parents,

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-Learning program recommended for implementation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the e-Learning page under the Curriculum 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 April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Source: Message from Gower Middle via MailChimp sent to parent list sent 4/18/19; 4:02 p.m.

HOME | DISTRICT INFO | BOARD OF EDUCATION | GOWER ORGANIZATIONS | CURRICULUM | PARENT INFORMATION | FACILITIES USE | EMPLOYMENT | CONTACT US

GOWER SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOWER DISTRICT NEWS

E-Learning Day Public Hearing April 30, 2019

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-Learning program recommended for implementation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the e-Learning page under the Curriculum 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 April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

← UPDATED COMMUNITY NOTICE: Sterigenics Inc. and Ethylene Oxide

Source: http://gower62.com/?news_district=e-learning-day-public-hearing-april-30-2019

- 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 4/18/19; 2:57 p.m.

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 Proposal, April 30, 2019

DATE: April 18, 2019

As part of the formal approval process for the e-Learning program recommended for use in place of what would otherwise be emergency days beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a public hearing must be held on the 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 April 17, 2019)

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal for an e-Learning program recommended for implementation district-wide. To learn more about the e-Learning program recommendation, please visit the e-Learning page under the Curriculum 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 April 30, 2019 and will be held at Gower West Elementary School, 7650 Clarendon Hills Road, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Victor Simon III

District officials have maintained communication with officials from the DuPage Regional Office of Education and have shared all local eLearning materials for review and have requested a timely review pending the outcome of the proposed Board Resolution to adopt the eLearning program as recommended. A representative from the DuPage Regional Office of Education has acknowledged the request. It is expected that the regional office of education for the school district will be required to verify that local proposals for e-learning programs have met the requirements specified and that such proposals contain provisions designed to reasonably and practicably accomplish these specifications. The local eLearning plan developed in Gower provides for such specifications (italicized print below) as follows and as previously reported:

- *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 Recommendation for eLearning Days, 12-18-18: 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 and professional capacity in place to support the adoption of eLearning days in place of traditional emergency days. A recent Home Connectivity Survey indicates that 98.4% of our students have access to reliable internet service at home based on a current return or direct contact rate of 100% at GM and 98.8% of our students have access to reliable internet service at home based on a current return or direct contact rate of 85% at GW. Measured in single digits at each school campuses, school staff will work with individual families to accommodate as needed (e.g. Loaner WiFi 'Hot Spot', Access to 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 eLearning Plan Update, 2-19-19
        - 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;*
    - Per Recommendation for eLearning Days, 12-18-18:
        - Gower School District officials contacted the co-presidents of the Gower Educators Association (GEA; Teacher Union) on Nov. 27 to begin the discussion provided the potential for a change to our current practice. With a clear consensus to investigate further, and ongoing communication and agreement, the GEA and Gower Admin Team met on Dec. 10 to build a framework for 'E-Learning Days' in Gower to share with staff and collect their feedback at the previously scheduled building-level staff meetings on Dec. 11. The District Superintendent joined each of the school Principals at their respective staff meetings to present the framework.
        - The Calendar Committee has recommended approval of the 2019-20 School Calendar which includes a Teacher Institute Day dedicated to eLearning practice/training
- *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 eLearning Plan Update, 2-19-19 illustrates 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.*
    - By building around the expected approval process and accompanying legislative statute ahead of time, Gower School District is well-positioned to have a fully approved plan in place for the start of the 2019-20 school year. This will allow for notification through start-of-year processes and training (e.g. Teacher Institute, Staff Handbooks, Parent and Student Handbooks, Open House, Curriculum Night, etc.)
- *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

Future State:

- Continue to follow the progress of Senate Bill 28
- 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 formally adopt the eLearning Plan districtwide
    - *I move that the Board of Education approve the eLearning program as presented and adopt 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.*

Illinois House of Representatives: Calendar May 2019

May 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

10—House Deadline Committee Senate Bills

24—House Deadline Third Reading Senate Bills

27—Memorial Day State Holiday

31—Adjournment

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 SESSION S	2 SESSION S	3	4
5 *Cinco de Mayo*	6	7 SESSION S	8 SESSION S	9 SESSION S	10 SESSION DEADLINE Committee SB's S	11
12 *Mother's Day*	13 SESSION	14 SESSION S	15 SESSION S	16 SESSION S	17 SESSION S	18
19	20 SESSION S	21 SESSION S	22 SESSION S	23 SESSION S	24 SESSION DEADLINE 3rd Reading SB's S	25 SESSION
26 SESSION	27 SESSION *Memorial Day* STATE HOLIDAY S	28 SESSION S	29 SESSION S	30 SESSION S	31 SESSION ADJOURNMENT S	

Websource: http://www.ilga.gov/house/schedules/2019_Session_Calendar.pdf

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Gower Elementary School District 62 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 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 (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) prior to renewal.

ADOPTED April 30, 2019, by a roll call vote as follows:

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABSENT/OTHER: _____

_____
President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Secretary, Board of Education