

Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix B

Date: November 20, 2024

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 C - eLearning Plan - Proposal for Renewal, March 22, 2022](#) 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:

- Nov. 26, 2024 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Jan. 23, 2024 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 84%
- Jan. 16, 2024 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 79%
- Jan. 12, 2024 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 87%
- Nov. 21, 2023 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Nov. 22, 2022 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Feb. 17, 2022 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 81%
- Feb. 2, 2022 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 83%
- Nov. 23, 2021 - Practice eLearning Day (Teacher Institute Day)
- Feb. 16, 2021 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 95%
- Jan. 26, 2021 - Gr. 1-8 attendance rate = 96%
- 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 10/30/2024 *DuPage County Chronicle*

LEGAL NOTICE
-Published 10/30-

LEGAL NOTICE
GOWER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 62
PUBLIC HEARING
(Published in DuPage County
Chronicle on
October 30, 2024)

The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal to renew our district’s current eLearning program for continuation district-wide in accordance with Illinois State Board of Education rules and regulations that call for renewal of the program at least once every three years. To learn more about the e-Learning program in Gower which has served as an effective model to preserve the continuity of learning within the approved school calendar and in lieu of what would otherwise be Emergency School Closure Days since 2019, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent 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 November 20, 2024 and will be held in the Gower School District Board Room, located at 7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527. Enter at the south end of campus, Door #B22.

SEARCH FOR:

VIEW	DuPage County Chronicle Wednesday, October 30, 2024
LEGAL NOTICE -Published 10/30- LEGAL NOTICE GOWER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 62 PUBLIC HEARING (Published in DuPage County Chronicle on October 30, 2024) The Gower School District 62 Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal to renew our district’s current ... click 'view' to open the full text.	

[Websource](#)

- Written or electronic notice designed to reach the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the district
 - District eblasts (via Smore service) and posted as a [Community Update on 10/17/24](#)



- District website web-posting/*District News* (10/17/24 - 11/20/24)



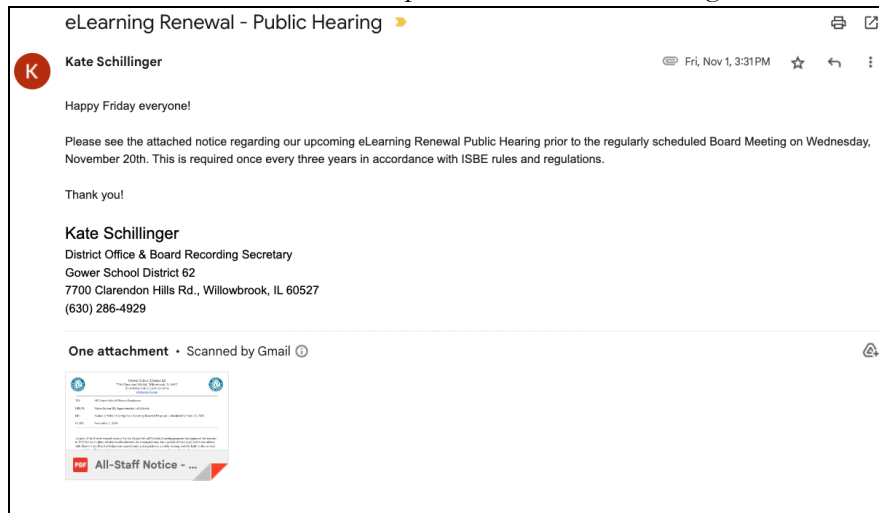
eLearning Day
Renewal:
Public Hearing
November 20, 2024

Oct 17 2024
 11:00 AM
 The Gower School District
 62 Board of

Education will hold a public hearing on the proposal to renew our district's current eLearning program for continuation district-wide in accordance with Illinois State Board of Education rules and regulations that call for renewal of the program at least once every three years. To learn more about the e-Learning program in Gower which has served as an effective model to preserve the continuity of learning within the approved school calendar and in lieu of what would otherwise be Emergency School Closure Days since 2019, please visit the eLearning page under the Parent 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 November 20, 2024 and will be held in the Gower School District Board Room, located at 7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527. Enter at the south end of campus, Door #B22.

District
GM
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- 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 11/1/24; 3:31 p.m. via Board Recording and District Secretary





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 will submit approved materials to the DuPage Regional Office of Education and have made all local eLearning materials available for review. 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/Google Classroom or other platform as communicated, 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?
 - 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 50% or more of the eLearning Modules will be recorded as a full day of attendance
 - Completion of <50% of the eLearning Modules will be recorded as a half day of attendance
 - No Completion of any of the 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 ensured 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, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

Future State:

- Work to increase attendance/participation rates on eLearning Days with a target of 90%+
- 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.*

 100 North First Street Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001	e-LEARNING PROGRAM VERIFICATION FORM
ROE/ISC DEPARTMENT	
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 minimum number of proposed emergency days for an 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 to implementation. The school board must hold a public hearing prior to initial adoption or renewal of an e-learning program.	
Please provide the dates for each procedural requirement as outlined below.	
● District Name: <u>Gower Elementary School District 62</u> ● Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least 10 days prior to hearing Date of Publication: <u>October 30, 2024</u> ● Written or electronic notice designed to reach the parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the district at least 10 days prior to hearing Date of Notification: <u>October 17, 2024</u> ● 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 at least 10 days prior to hearing Date of Notification: <u>November 1, 2024</u> ● 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 that coincides with the school year calendar. Date of Public Hearing: <u>November 20, 2024</u> Date of Board Meeting/Resolution: <u>November 20, 2024</u>	
<i>Note: A district that has an approved e-learning program must utilize all five e-learning days in addition to all proposed emergency days before ISBE will consider approving Act of God Days.</i>	
Annually, 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	
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- 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

Dr. Victor Simon III

Verified by: School Dist. Superintendent (printed)

Signature*

11-20-24

Date (for initial adoption or renewal)

Verified by: Regional Superintendent (printed)

Signature

Date (Verification Year 1)

Verified by: Regional Superintendent (printed)

Signature

Date (Verification Year 2)

Verified by: Regional Superintendent (printed)

Signature

Date (Verification Year 3)

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

Print

Reset Form

Websource: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/e-Learning-Program-Verification-Form.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. 24-R07

**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 (2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28) prior to renewal.

ADOPTED November 20, 2024, by a roll call vote as follows:

YES: _____

NO: _____

ABSENT/OTHER: _____

President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Secretary, Board of Education