

# Northern Wells Community Schools eLearning

## Framework

### **Elearning Committee**

This document is the result of the work of a committee of parents, teachers, patrons, and administrators who sought to create a plan for eLearning to replace certain instructional days in the Northern Wells Community Schools. The committee began its work by studying the criteria required by the State Department of Education (DOE) to conduct an eLearning day. Next, the committee brainstormed the situations that created potential barriers to meet the State's eLearning requirements. Then, the committee worked to develop strategies to overcome each of the barriers.

The committee then worked to identify what the "aim" of an eLearning day should be for Northern Wells Community Schools. Although not unanimous, the committee stated with a high degree of consensus that an eLearning day needed to result in a meaningful day of learning. The table below shows characteristics that committee members developed. The items at the top of the table are the items of highest priority. The items in **BOLD** represent those items of highest priority and share the common theme of "meaningful learning".

After identifying meaningful learning as the goal of an eLearning day, the committee worked to determine what activities or actions needed to occur for learning to be considered meaningful. An operational definition of meaningful learning is found below the table.

## The AIM of eLearning for NWCS

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Group 4</b>
<b>Meaningful Learning</b>	<b>without too much loss</b>	<b>learn and review</b>	<b>not busy work/meaningful</b>
<b>non-interrupted learning</b>	<b>quality instruction/learning</b>	<b>continue learning</b>	students participate
accomplish all mandated goals	other alternatives	<b>effective</b>	<b>continue to learn</b>
fewer make-up days at the end of school	Productive	alternative	positive experience
	Worthwhile	missed days	create an opportunity
		outside school	quality
		end of year	supplements current learning happening
		academic	accessible to all students
			meets state guidelines

**Operational definition of meaningful learning:**

Meaningful learning is a combination of introduction of new concepts, review, continuation, remediation, and enrichment. Meaningful learning is interactive which can include engaging in tutorials, production of new work, and student practice. Meaningful learning is student-driven and dependent upon where the teacher and student are in the learning process at any given time.

**Framework for Elearning**

Based upon the requirements of the DOE, the work of the Elearning committee, and the issues particular to the Northern Wells Community Schools, the following represents a framework that could provide for an Elearning day to sufficiently replace a regular day of instruction.

The determination to utilize Elearning days to replace regular instructional days is a district policy decision requiring the approval of the School Board of Trustees. This framework addresses the requirements of the DOE and the potential barriers with recommended actions that would meet the State's requirements and overcome the potential barriers. Therefore, this framework should provide a sufficient model to determine if utilizing Elearning days for Northern Wells Community Schools is feasible and reasonable.

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## **Proposed actions to meet DOE requirements and minimize barriers of Elearning**

### **NWCS can demonstrate Internet use away from school:**

Internet use does not have to be online in real time. Any Internet-based components of learning will be obtained prior to any planned eLearning day.

- A predicted day off could be considered an eLearning day but an unpredicted day off will be made up.
- Learning resources will be downloaded to iPads before leaving school when a potential for a school cancellation is reasonable.
- K-2 will take home iPads prior to an eLearning day. When a potential for a school cancellation is reasonable, the school will prepare iPads to go home with the students. If K-2 does not take an iPad home prior to a cancellation, there will not be an eLearning day for the day(s) school is not in session.
- Teachers will be available by phone and Internet connectivity during eLearning Days.
- The number of consecutive eLearning days will be limited to 2.
- Schoolwork may be completed and turned in a minimum of five (5) school days after an eLearning day.

### **Accommodations for Special Needs students during eLearning days:**

- Special education accommodations for each student will be prepared in the IEP during a case conference prior to eLearning days.
- Each child will need to be looked at individually and needs met according to his or her IEP.
- Visual schedules can be used to help more intense students to work at home.

- Work sent home will be work the child should be capable of doing.
- The teacher and related services should collaborate ahead of time to prepare an action plan for eLearning days.
- Compensatory services will be used for those students whose needs cannot be met.

**Student work will cover content that would have been addressed if school were in session.**

- Yes. Each eLearning day will be planned in advance. If there's a reasonable forecast that school could be cancelled because of inclement weather, teachers will provide lessons for the next two school days before students leave the school. So teachers and students will ensure that any electronic lessons or materials will be downloaded onto each student's iPad prior to leaving school in advance to an eLearning day.
- Learning is a combination of introduction of new concepts, review, continuation, remediation, and enrichment.

**All teachers and students have access to and experience using online platforms for delivering learning.**

- The current online platforms we use for delivering content are: My Big Campus, iTunes U, Schoology, Evernote, email, and Edmodo.
- If Internet connectivity is available, teachers will communicate with students through that platform. When Internet is not available, students can access content preloaded to their device and communicate to teachers through phones.

**For students with disabilities who do not use an online platform for learning or for whom an online platform is not appropriate, teachers will provide parents / caregivers appropriate educational materials and learning activities for student use.**

- Plans will be outlined in the IEP and expectations will be set by parent/TOR in advance.
- Contact will be made between Teacher of Record and parents to determine best learning activities for the individual student.
- Reflection opportunities will be offered to parents after E-learning days to

help modify plans and activities as appropriate

- Alternative activities may be needed review or activities that students can complete independently.
- Assignments can be modified as appropriate on an individual basis.
- Additional time can be given as appropriate.

**Teachers will be directly reachable by parents and students to facilitate and support instruction.**

- When an Elearning day occurs as a part of the regular school calendar, teachers will report for work at their regularly scheduled time unless sufficient advanced notice has been given for an alternative work day.
- When an Elearning day occurs as a result of inclement weather, teachers will be able to work from home if they have adequate phone and Internet access. Students can reach them by phone or Internet.
- When an Elearning day occurs as a result of inclement weather, if teachers do not have adequate phone or Internet access, teachers will report to work for the day.

**For limited English proficient students, teachers will provide parents / caregivers appropriate educational materials and learning activities for student use per the Individual Learning Plan.**

- The EL teacher will be available by phone and Internet during the day to assist EL students.
- The EL teacher will work with parents of students without Internet connectivity to plan activities for eLearning days.
- The EL teacher will train teachers to facilitate accommodation for EL students on eLearning days.
- The iPads will be sent home with students and access to translation apps will be made available.
- The EL teacher will train parents of EL students as to what an eLearning day is and best uses of an eLearning day.

**Students will demonstrate time on task and/or equivalent learning growth for the time.**

- Teachers will actively communicate with students during eLearning days.
- Teachers will monitor the progress of the students during eLearning days.
- Teachers will monitor the completion of eLearning tasks and assignments from eLearning days.
- Teachers will work with any students who need additional time to complete work from eLearning days.

**All students will be informed of their learning targets for the day by 9:00 am.**

- When there is a potential for an eLearning day, the assignments will be prepared and ready in advance. In addition, assignments will be posted by 9:00 AM via learning platforms, on the teacher's web site, etc.

**Other considerations**

Conduct an Elearning day in the fall as a trial run.

How will teaching assistants be utilized?

What will happen for the lost work and wages of cafeteria staff?