

Elkhart Community School Scheduled eLearning Days Frequently Asked Questions

What are eLearning days?

“eLearning Days may be used on a day when school is cancelled, as a planned day, or as a make up day when a day of school was missed. There are a variety of reasons a school/corporation would use an eLearning Day. These include, but are not limited to, snow or other inclement weather, professional development, parent conferences, widespread illness, and flooding. School corporations must still meet the IDOE criteria, fill out an online application, and receive approval from the IDOE Office of eLearning in order to utilize eLearning Days.” - Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)

What type of eLearning days will the Elkhart Community School Corporation use in the 2019-2020 school year??

There are different categories of eLearning Days the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) allows school districts to use. The first type is for *unscheduled inclement weather days* and allows the school corporation to count “snow days” as an academic day. A second type is a *pre-scheduled* eLearning Day where students learn digitally at home while teachers come to school for collaboration, curriculum writing and/or professional development. Elkhart will only be using the *pre-scheduled* eLearning days during the 2019-2020 school year.

What will students do on eLearning days?

Students will be participating in learning activities that mirror the work that they would be doing in the classroom. Secondary students will use the district’s learning management system, Canvas, to communicate with their teachers, see their assignments and access resources. Elementary students will use a variety of apps on their iPads including the digital portfolio app Seesaw to complete their work.

What will Elkhart employees do during eLearning days?

All Elkhart employees will be participating in professional development and curriculum development during scheduled eLearning days. This valuable time will be used to advance the district’s focus areas including Trauma informed practices, SIOP and the work of PLCs. Non-classroom employees will have a chance to train on topics particular to their job.

How will students without internet complete their assignments?

Students will be able to download their assignments before they leave school, work on their iPads without internet and then upload their assignments when they return to school the following day. In addition, the school system will provide a list of community partners with internet that will be open during a scheduled eLearning day.

Why scheduled eLearning days?

All Elkhart employees need opportunities to meet, collaborate and learn but the typical school day does not provide adequate time for these important activities. Scheduled eLearning days will provide Elkhart employees with the much needed time to collaborate and learn to maximize their impact on student learning.

Will the district participate in inclement weather eLearning?

The Elkhart Community School Corporation will **NOT** be participating in inclement weather eLearning during the 2019-2020 school year. Elementary students do not take iPads home every day, making inclement weather eLearning days at the elementary level not practical at this time. The district believes the current practice of using of scheduled emergency make up days to account for school cancellations because of inclement weather to be best for student learning.

Will accommodations be available to students identified with special learning needs?

All students who have accommodations for instruction will be provided with or have access to accommodations as outlined in their Individual Education Program (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or a Section 504 Plan. For students with disabilities who do not use an online platform for learning or whom an outline platform is not appropriate, appropriate educational materials and learning activities will be provided.

Do students with identified special learning needs have an alternative means to access their education on eLearning days?

Yes. Supports, services and accommodations for students with an Individual Education Program (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or a Section 504 Plan are reviewed, discussed and agreed upon at the student's case conference committee meeting or a Section 504 meeting.