

Alternative Learning Day (ALD)

Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has approved the use of asynchronous instruction to count as instructional time. The district is planning to use Alternative Learning Days (ALDs) as an alternate form of instruction in place of a day otherwise cancelled due to inclement weather or building emergency in accordance with 24 P.S. § 5-520.1 (Section 520.1 of the PA School Code Resolution) and to provide flexibility to meet minimum instructional time requirements.

Notification: All decisions related to weather closures and/or the use of ALD will be communicated to you via the notification system for school closures and schedule changes.

Assignments: Prior to an ALD, teachers will provide an explanation to students regarding the assignments and how to access the assignments that will need to be completed during the ALD. Students are expected to complete assignments for all classes that would normally meet on the ALD as this would count as a typical cycle day. Younger students or students with accommodations may require support from an adult.

Access: Students will access activities for that typical school day through their teachers' Google Classroom (grades Pre- K -12), a paper copy or information downloaded to a device for offline access. Online and offline options will be provided in a format that the student has experienced during the school year.

Work Completion and Attendance: Recognizing that students may face other circumstances or a lack of Internet connection on a day of inclement weather, students will have three days beyond the ALD to complete all assignments. Students that do not complete the assignments within three days for the designated ALD will be noted as absent for that day following the District's attendance policy and will receive a zero on this assignment.

Teacher and Staff Availability: Your child's teacher(s) will be available for assistance via email from 9 am – 12:30 pm and 1 pm - 3 pm during the ALD. Your school's principal, counselor and nurse will also be available on an ALD via email.

The District believes that using an Alternative Learning Day will allow students and teachers to continue the learning process while responding to a weather closure in an efficient manner. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Notifications and Media Messages for ALD

There are two options the District may choose to follow a school closing.

1. Alternative Learning Days: Schools are closed and students complete assigned work remotely.

A message will be sent through the District's notification system alerting families and staff of a potential ALD.

2. There may still be instances when the District will close and not use an ALD.

Teacher Responsibilities for ALD's

The responsibilities of our professional staff for ALDs include:

1. Teachers will work remotely. You will receive notification on or before the morning of the ALD stating that the district is using an ALD.
2. Teachers will provide a lesson and/or assignment and activities for each of their scheduled classes. There is no expectation for teachers to provide a recorded or live lesson. Teachers may opt to pre-record ALD lessons.
3. Teachers will be available for assistance from 9:00 am -12:30 pm and 1 pm - 3 pm during the ALD. Teachers will respond to email questions during this time. There is no expectation for teachers to work outside of the normal school day.
4. This is considered a regular workday for all teachers. If a teacher is unable to fulfill these requirements due to illness, this will be considered a teacher absence and must be reported to Frontline Aesop according to contractual guidelines. If a teacher is absent, it is expected that the teacher will create lesson plans and post the information on Google Classroom for their students.
5. If a student requires hard copies of lesson materials, it is the teacher's responsibility to provide these copies to the student, either before the ALD or upon return to school.
6. If a teacher loses power or Internet, the teacher is to notify their building administration either by text or phone call as soon as possible.

What is an Alternative Instruction Day (ALD)?

Due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has approved the use of asynchronous instruction to count as instructional time. The district is planning to use Alternative Learning Days (ALDs) as an alternate form of instruction in place of a day otherwise cancelled due to inclement weather or building emergency. PDE will count this as a full day of school.

On an ALD, students will complete learning assignments provided by the teacher at home on the day that otherwise would have been cancelled. Students will receive assignments for each subject that would have originally taken place during a regular school day.

How will parents and students find the ALD learning activities and assignments?

Classroom teachers will post on their Google Classroom Stream the learning assignments, activities, and online resources required for the day. Parents and/or students should make teachers aware of a need for a paper-copy version of the assignment if Wi Fi will not be available on the ALD. A paper-copy version of the assignment will be provided to the student.

What if a student does not have access to the Internet to access the lesson or complete activities?

The teacher may provide students with an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the ALD or the student can obtain the assignment in a hard copy version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have three days to complete the required learning activities and assignments.

Will elementary students have assignments and activities for their special classes such as music?

Students will be expected to complete lessons for classes that are typically scheduled for that day to include specials in physical education, health, art, music, library, and counseling.

What happens if a student does not complete the ALD assignments?

Middle and high school students may lose the point value or grade for the assignment. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. Each teacher weights learning activities and assignments differently. It would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignments within the three-day window.

Students will be marked absent for the ALD day if work is not completed.

What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence?

The student would be expected to make up the learning activities and assignments within three days of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.

How is a student expected to complete the activities if they go to day care when school is cancelled?

If the student cannot access the internet or take a paper-copy of the learning activities and assignments to the day care to complete that day, the student would have three days to complete the activities.

How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?

Teachers have designed learning activities and assignments that are equivalent to time spent on a similar activity on a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignment compared to a large group setting. Teachers will make every effort to assign an approximate time to each activity or assignment.

What if there is only one computer in the house but multiple students?

Students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments. Students would be expected to use the district-assigned laptop. All students can request an offline version of the learning activities and assignments prior to the scheduled ALD or on the first day after students return to school.

May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their Smartphone?

Teachers' Google Classrooms can be accessed from a variety of tablets, Smart phones, laptops, and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.