

eLearning

Questions:

Why doesn't Geneseo utilize eLearning days like some other school districts? Couldn't we use them instead of Emergency Days (snow/weather), like we did during COVID?

Answer and explanation:

1. Geneseo does not currently have an approved eLearning Plan (ELP). eLearning days can not take place this school year (2023-24) or in future years without one.
2. Currently, 13 of the 24 school districts assigned to our Regional Office of Education (ROE) have an approved eLearning Plan on record. You may see on the local news that sometimes those districts use eLearning days and sometimes they have a traditional Emergency Day. A district having an approved eLearning plan does not mean they have to use it in place of an Emergency Day.
3. Geneseo had an eLearning Plan during COVID, but every district in the state was afforded that option due to the unprecedented circumstances. eLearning Plans are only good for 3 years and then must be renewed. If a Board of Education (BOE) wants to have the option to use an eLearning Plan, then:
 - a. The BOE must 1) hold a public hearing, 2) formally approve an ELP at a board meeting, and 3) have the ELP approved by the ROE.
 - b. There are specific requirements and elements that must be present in each ELP, outlined by the Illinois State Board of Education (see below).
4. Because an ELP has to do with working conditions for the district's employees, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) may be necessary.
5. Additional questions and considerations exist regarding ELPs and would need to be addressed by the Board Of Education, per School Code:
 - i. What, if anything, would the district do to address food insecurity for our students on an eLearning day?
 1. Should the district ask cafeteria staff and students to come to a building if it is deemed not safe enough to travel?
 - ii. The district is obligated to pay all of its vendors, including Pinks', on an eLearning day for any lost income and/or wages.
 - iii. The district also has to pay all non-certified employees on eLearning days for lost wages.
 - iv. The eLearning Plan must be rigorous and provide adequate learning opportunities for all students, including our special education students.
 1. How will the district address any lost minutes per their IEPs?

***From item 3B (above), requirements for an approved eLearning Plan, per the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), as follows:**

Specifically, 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*
- *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*