



# East Pennsboro Area School District

WHERE RELEVANCE AND PASSION INSPIRE SUCCESS

## Frequently Asked Questions Flexible Instructional Days

### Students/Families:

#### **What is the goal of the Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Program?**

The program is intended to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff stay safe when there is inclement weather or during emergency situations while maintaining our scheduled holidays and in-service days and ensuring that our students have adequate time on task.

#### **What are the expectations for the FID learning experience?**

We require that lessons and activities for an FID fit seamlessly into their current instruction, units, and curriculum. We do not want FID to be a generalized “emergency plan” that does not fit into the current classroom content. Our teachers have the professional latitude to create a learning experience in any format that is age- and level-appropriate, i.e., there are different levels of expectations for a primary student versus a high school student. Ultimately, we expect the learning activity to be a rigorous, curriculum-based activity and not an “add-on.” Activities must also be differentiated appropriately in the same manner as classroom instruction.

#### **How much notice do you provide regarding the use of an FID?**

We intend to provide several days/weeks’ notice of the use of an FID because we expect to schedule them on pre-existing snow make-up days. While this will enable us to be flexible with the amount of time students have to complete the assignments, we would like to reserve the possibility to use an FID on relatively short notice. However, because we would like the FID lessons to be relevant to current instruction and able to be distributed in non-electronic form for those lacking online access at home, we do not believe it feasible to provide parents, students, and teachers of a FID with less than 24 hours’ notice.

#### **How much time should students be working on the FID assignments?**

The planned activities should be similar in expectations during a face-to-face classroom experience in time, scope, and rigor. However, we expect a fairly wide disparity of time spent on the activities, depending on the individual student and grade level. It is impossible to ensure accurate calculation of instructional time for all students under these circumstances, but we believe that the more experience our teachers have with developing these plans, the more comfortable they will become with ensuring an appropriate amount of work for an FID.

#### **How are students held accountable for completing the FID assignments?**

We discourage the requirement that all FID assignments be turned in and graded. Rather, we encourage our teachers to use a variety of assessment tools to have the students reflect individually and as a class on their experiences and the content of the FID lessons. We view completion of FID activities akin to active class participation, which cannot be assured in every case on any traditional school day for all students.

**How do you handle attendance of students on Flexible Instructional Days?**

We mark all students as present. Our goal is to have the assignments be of importance and expect that teachers work with students to be successful on the activity. We give students the ability to return to school and work with their teachers regarding any difficulties, questions, or concerns arising from the FID activities.

**How do you handle Special Education Teachers and Special Needs Students**

When appropriate and feasible, our special education teachers may offer asynchronous work and offer walk-in hours during the day for parents/students who wish to have face-to-face instruction or if the SDI requires it. We understand that this will not be an option during inclement weather and intend to develop processes and procedures for this in the future.

**How are students in out-of-district special education placements handled on an FID?**

Students receiving special education services in outside placements follow the school calendar of their placement instead of the home district.