

A green, curved line representing a hill. On the hill, there are five black silhouettes of people walking from left to right. The first is a person in a wheelchair, followed by a person walking, a person walking, a person walking, and a person in a graduation cap and gown.

Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: State Board of Education Members

From: Danielle Shockey, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Date: December 29, 2014

Subject: Response to eLearning Inquiries

Q: How many virtual learning days can be used?

A: There is no minimum or maximum number of virtual learning days that a qualified public school corporation can use.

Q: What legal authority is the Department relying on for this new policy?

Indiana Code 20-30-2-5

Q: How will student attendance be monitored?

A: Public school corporations who utilize the virtual option on a day in which the school has cancelled classes due to severely inclement weather will report attendance on the department's attendance reporting system as they would for a normal instructional day. Public school corporations will verify that students have met the requirements by reviewing any work that was directed to the students.

Q: How will instruction be monitored?

A: School leaders have access to monitor this instruction inside learning management systems, online grade books, and digital communication even when students are in school. Lesson plans for virtual days are scrutinized ahead of time, observable by parents, and through the student work submitted.

Q: What guidance is being provided to schools?

A: See November State Board of Education Presentation Slides as suggested by Dr. Oliver.

Q: On December 4th, the Lafayette Journal and Courier quoted the Superintendent of Lafayette Schools who was surprised to learn that he was approved for a virtual option to instructional days, noting that his district had not yet adopted a formal program nor were they certain they wished to exercise the virtual option and was only seeking information by the Department. Can you please explain how this district was approved?

A: Districts are approved based on their responses to the criteria and expectations in the virtual option application. Superintendents must certify that they will meet these criteria, as well as the needs of their students – just as they do on any day of instruction. These superintendents put their name to these expectations in the application, and approvals are returned to the superintendent. We received an application from Lafayette with Les Huddle’s name on October 21, 2014.

Q: It is my understanding that the Madison-Grant Schools did not hold classes on December 10th in order to rehearse an e-Learning day. Can you please tell me to what extent districts can use their virtual option? Are they allowed to have practice days or is the virtual option only being used for inclement weather? Again, the impression I was given at the December 3rd meeting was that virtual option for inclement weather days would be used sparingly, yet I am hearing from parents that Madison-Grant has built in additional e-Learning days into their school calendar and will observe a similar day in January? Do I have this information wrong? What is the Department's position on when an eLearning day can be used (following approval of a virtual option)?

A: Response from Superintendent John Trout of Madison-Grant Schools is as follows:

Thank you for asking. The day in question (December 10th) was actually a “Flex Pilot Day” that was pre-approved. Here is a link that can explain these pre-approved days:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/indiana-elearning-flex-pilot-program>

Our next scheduled “Flex Pilot Day” is set for January 27th. We have also surveyed our students, parents, and staff on the Flex Pilot (eLearning) Day from 12-10-14, and I have attached an example and result of one question from each survey. At the School Board Meeting tonight, I will be sharing complete details (all questions and results) from all three surveys. I am extremely happy with our overall results and know that all of the preparations have helped to make our first eLearning Day meaningful for our students. These “Flex Pilot Days” are a practice day for any inclement weather days (eLearning Days) that may occur this school year (also pre-approved):

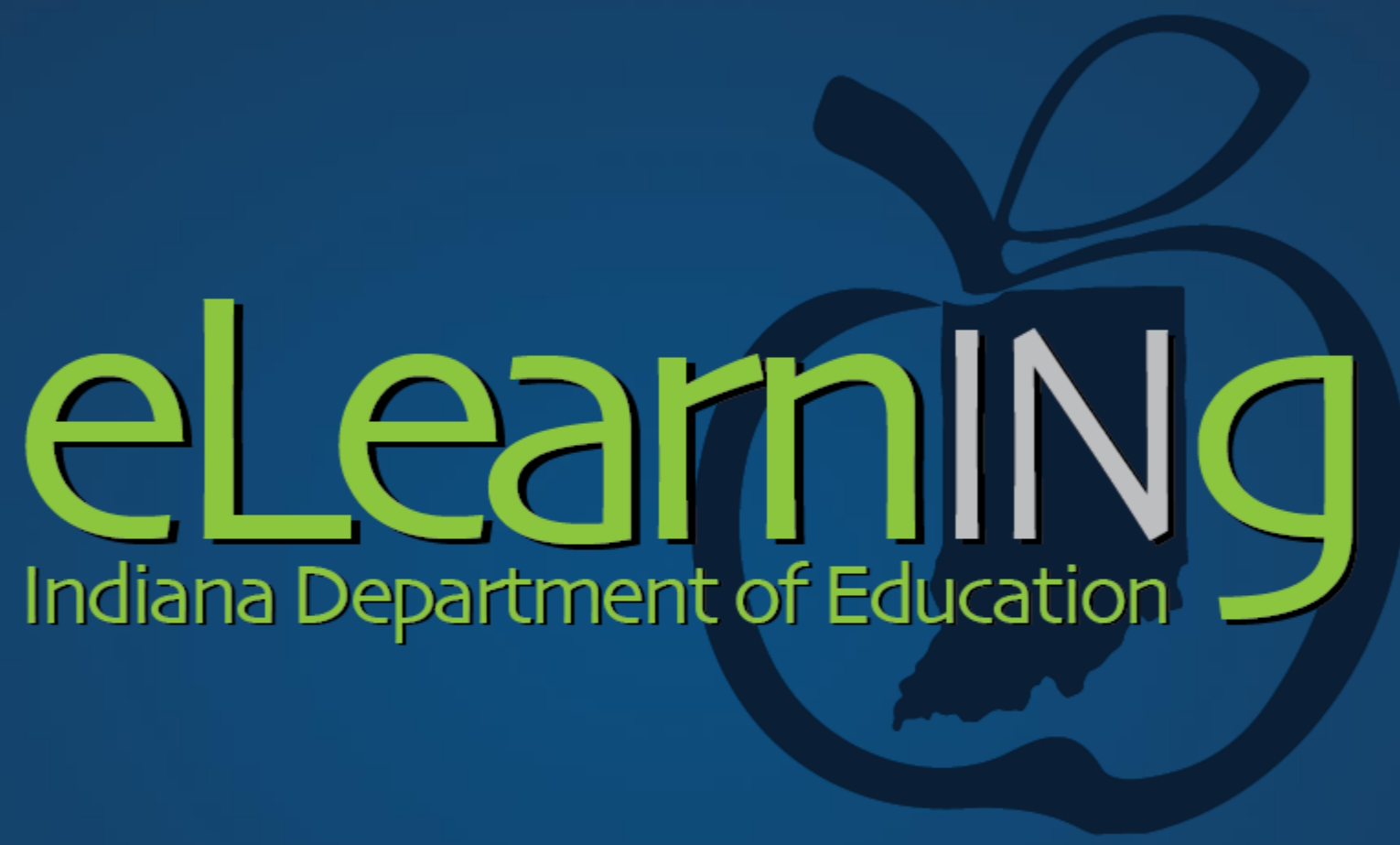
<http://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/virtual-option-inclement-weather>

This fall, I was one of 118 Superintendents from across the country to be selected to participate in the Superintendent Summit in Washington, DC. Through this experience, I learned that Indiana has

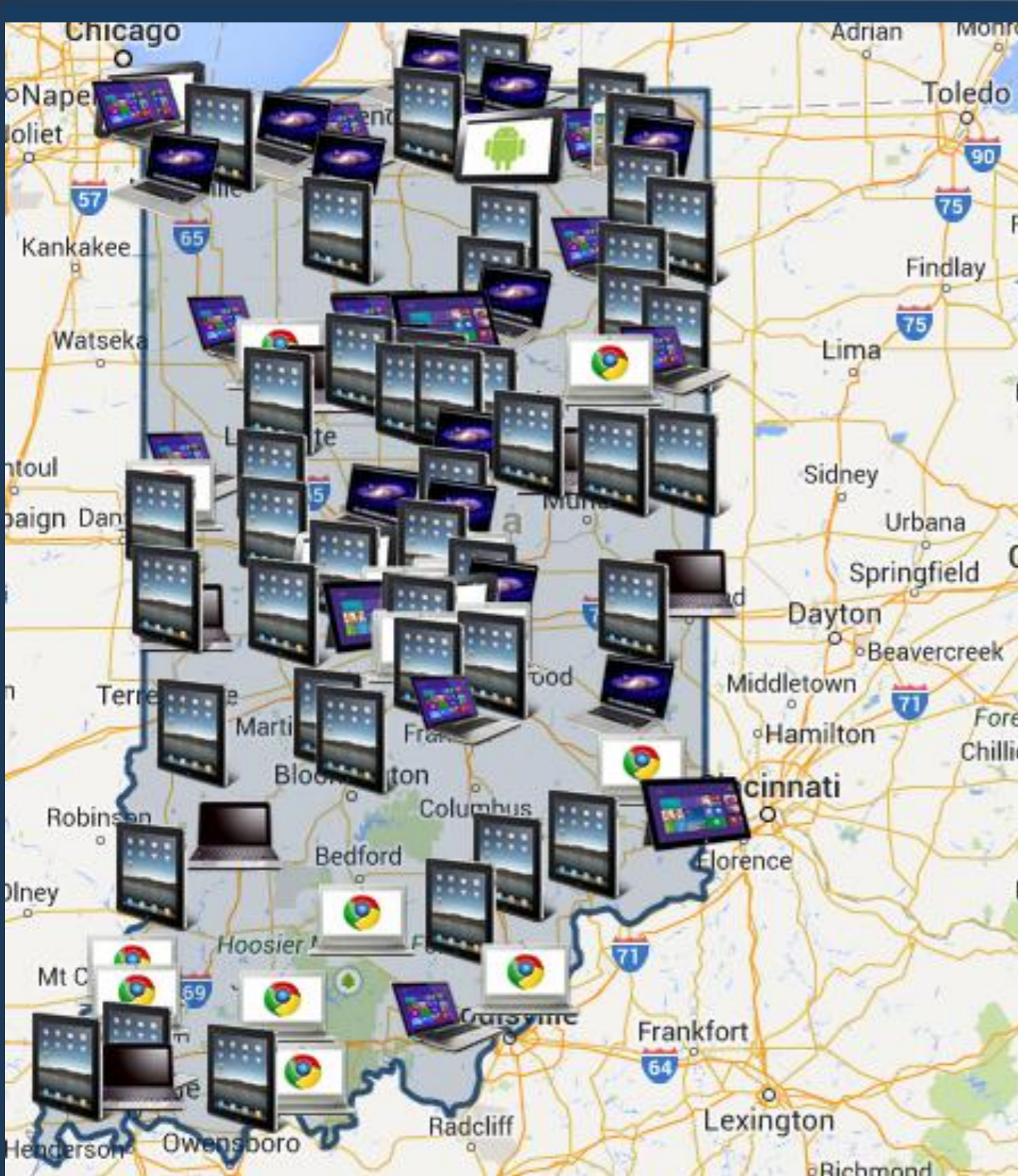
positioned itself to be considered a leader in Digital Learning for our students. Last week, I was asked to be a part of a presentation/panel at the National Superintendent Conference (AASA), in February, on this topic. I appreciate your support as we move forward as a State and ensure that these eLearning Days are an effective and efficient way to educate our students when the need arises.

Q: What plans does the Department have to work with the Indiana General Assembly and State Board of Education to define parameters to use a virtual option in place of one of the 180 instructional days required in Indiana?

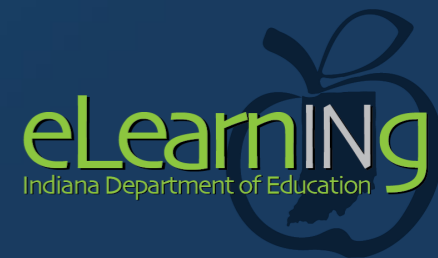
A: The department will continue to consult with the General Assembly and the Board when the need arises or when there is ambiguity in the law.



eLearning
Indiana Department of Education



- Alexandria Community School Corporation
- Attica Consolidated School Corporation
- Batesville Community School Corporation
- Beech Grove City Schools
- Bethany Christian Schools
- Bethany Christian Schools
- Bishop Chatard
- Bluffton-Harrison MSD
- Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
- Bremen Public Schools
- Bremen Public Schools
- Carroll Consolidated School Corporation
- Center Grove Community School Corporation
- Center Grove Community School Corporation
- Center Grove Community School Corporation
- Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County
- Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County
- Connersville Senior High School
- Covington Community School Corporation
- Danville Community School Corporation



Flex

Pilot

- Created in 2011 for schools interested in exploring innovative approaches to school schedules by leveraging eLearning option.
- Implemented in 2012-2013 year with 3 districts.
- 2013-2014- 6 districts
- Flex Consortium formed
- [Flex Framework](#)



Flex Pilot Application



This pilot is NOT the same as the Virtual Learning Option offered for inclement weather, but is an opportunity for the IDOE to partner with a district to identify new ideas and promising practices in the area of eLearning.

Applications are due by June 1, 2014.

For additional information, contact Candice Dodson cdodson@doe.in.us

School Corporation Name

Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Superintendent Name

Prefix

First Name

Last Name

Superintendent E-mail

Flex Pilot Coordinator Name

Prefix

First Name

Last Name

Flex Pilot Coordinator E-mail

School Board President Name

Prefix

First Name

Last Name

School Board President E-mail

What are the goals of your eLearning Flex Pilot proposal?

Overview of proposed eLearning Flex Pilot project that includes alternative approaches for: structure of the school day, student attendance, or eLearning options.

Number of proposed Flex Days for 2014-2015 school year:

Grade Level(s) of students in Flex Pilot:

Approximate number of students in Flex Pilot:

What will these Flex Days look like from a student's point of view?

What will these Flex Days look like for teachers?

How will students and teachers access and deliver learning virtually? What online platform will be used? How long has this platform been used by the district?

Please provide a link to a sample online lesson that best demonstrates learning objectives on Flex Days.

How will teachers be directly reachable by students to facilitate and support instruction?



eLearning

- Social Media
- Digital Resources
- Professional Development
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- eLearning Data
- eLearning Grants

June

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

[Home](#) > [eLearning](#) > Indiana eLearning Flex Pilot Program

Indiana eLearning Flex Pilot Program

Posted: Wed, 03/26/2014 - 3:36pm Updated: Fri, 05/23/2014 - 12:14pm

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the IDOE launched a Flex Pilot Program designed to support schools interested in exploring innovative approaches to school schedules by leveraging eLearning options. During the 2013-2014 school year, six schools have participated in the program. They are: Zionsville Community Schools, M S D Wabash County Schools, Noblesville Schools, Porter Township School Corporation, Maconaquah School Corporation, and Attica Consolidated School Corporation.

[Learn more about these programs here.](#)

To be considered for the Flex Pilot a district must complete an online application that indicates the following:

- A plan for utilizing digital learning that innovatively alters the traditional school day.
- The ability to provide online learning opportunities that meet the varying needs of their students and include contact with teachers.
- Accommodations for students with special needs.

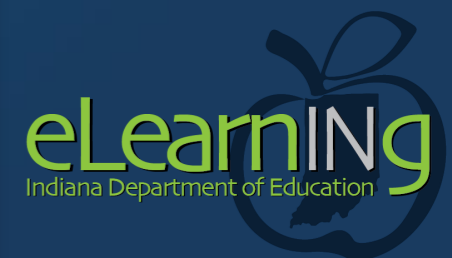
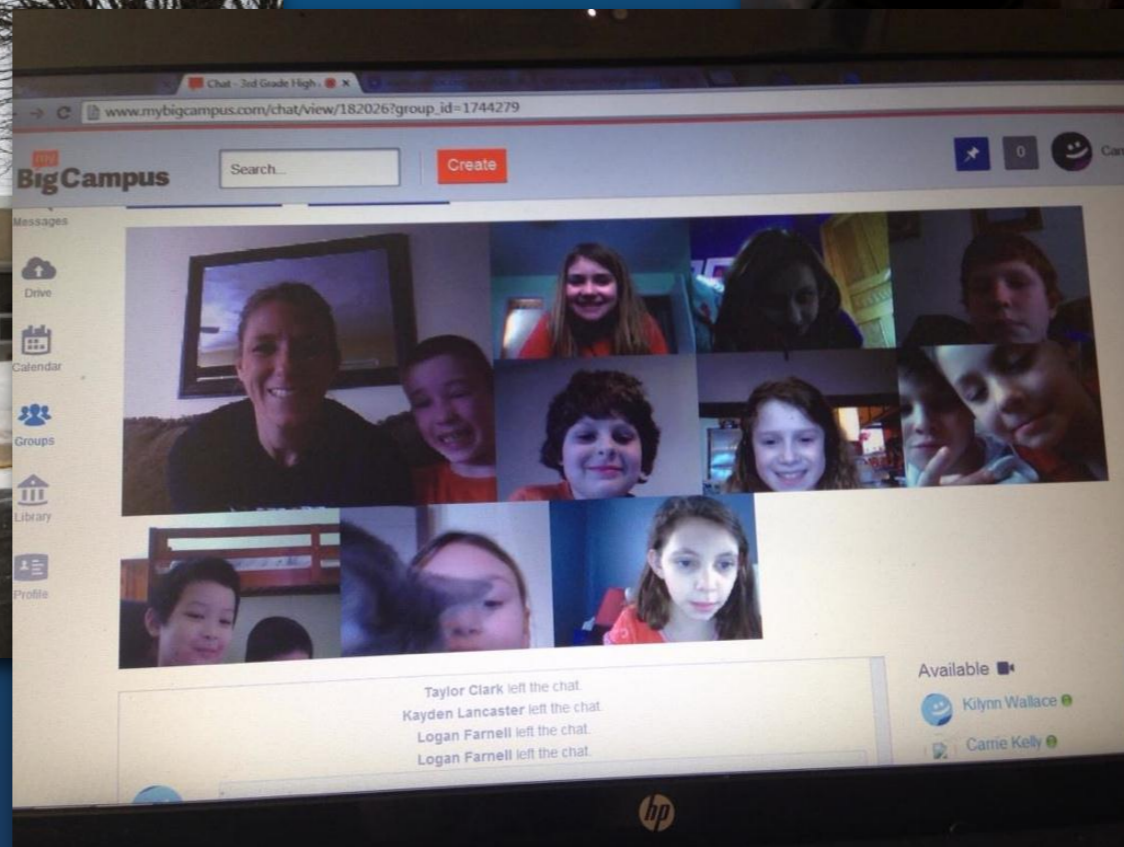
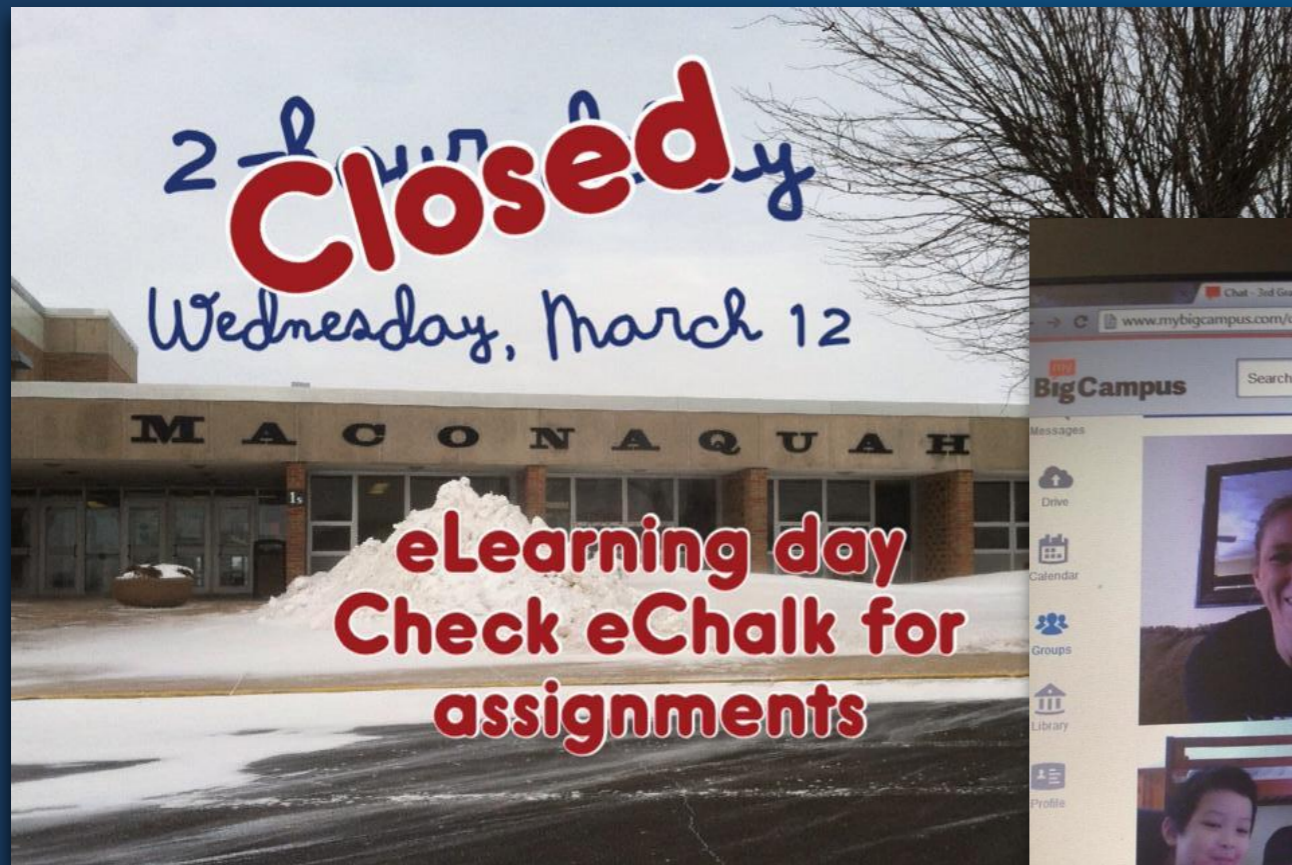
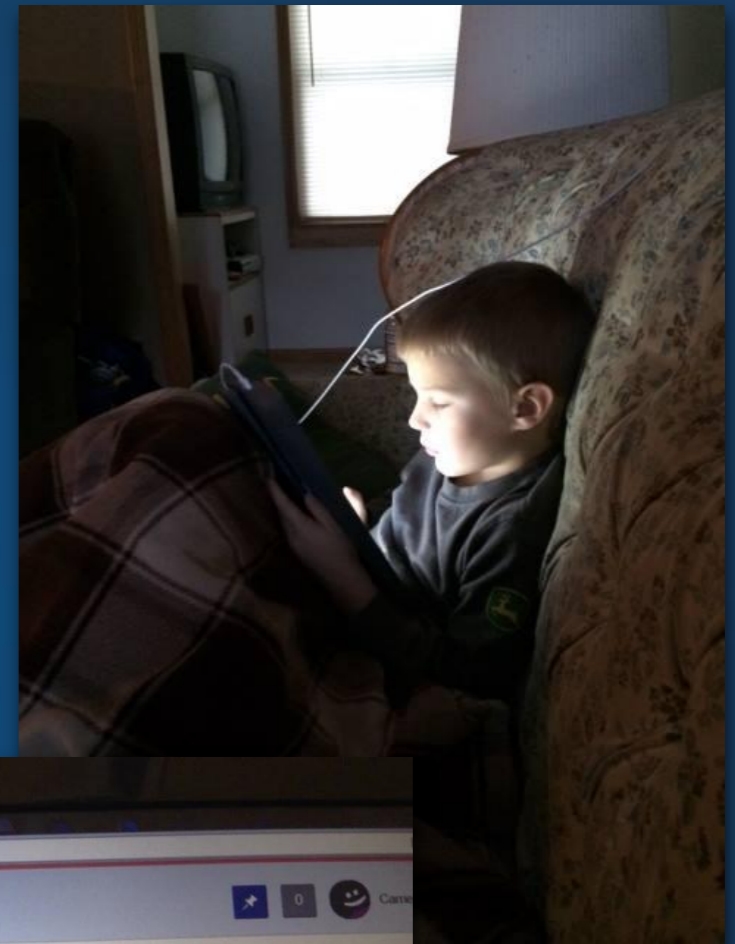


2014-2015 Pilot Districts

- Perry Central
- East Noble
- Madison Consolidated
- Madison- Grant
- Yorktown
- Southwest Allen
- Maconaquah
- Zionsville
- Attica
- Porter
- MSD Wabash
- Noblesville

Virtual Option for Inclement Weather 2013-2014

- 25 Public and Charter Districts
- 13 Private and Parochial Schools
- 76 Total days used



Virtual Learning Application

To use the virtual option for inclement weather, Superintendents must respond in the affirmative on behalf of their district to the following mandatory criteria:

School District

IDOE District #

Contact Information

Full Name
First Name Last Name

Title

Phone Number -
Area Code Phone Number

E-mail ex: myname@example.com

Our district can demonstrate access to the internet for students and teachers away from our buildings. Yes No

All of our teachers and students have access to, and experience using, online platforms for delivering learning. Yes No

All of our students will be informed of their learning targets for the day by 9:00 am. Yes No

Teachers will be directly reachable from students and parents to facilitate and support instruction. Yes No

Student work will cover content that would have been addressed if school were in session. Yes No

All students who have accommodations for instruction will be provided with or have access to those accommodations. Yes No

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 with appropriate educational materials and learning activities for student use. Yes No

For limited English proficient students, teachers will provide parents/caregivers appropriate educational materials and learning activities for student use per the Individual Learning Plan. Yes No

Students will demonstrate time on task and/or equivalent learning growth for the time. Yes No

Planning

Grade levels to be included in the virtual option for learning:

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

Will virtual learning be used ON upcoming inclement weather days, IF the criteria below can be met and the district is approved by the IDOE? Yes No

Will virtual learning be used during planned make up days/hours for missed instructional time due to inclement weather, IF the criteria below can be met and the district is approved by the IDOE? Yes No

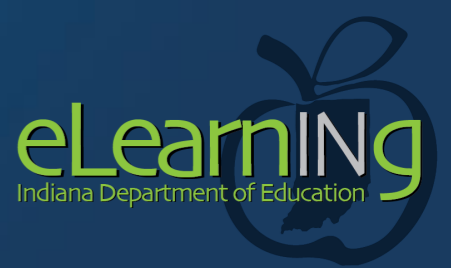
If yes to either of the above, the district then agrees to submit dates/hours utilized with the virtual option to the Director of

Superintendent should type their name in this box as confirmation of the above criteria*.

***By placing your name in this box, you affirm that all the above criteria can and will be met by your district during the approved virtual option for inclement weather days/hours.**

Superintendent's email ex: myname@example.com

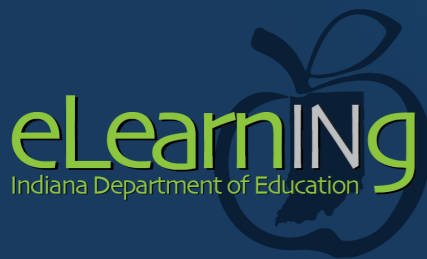
Submit



Virtual Option for Inclement Weather

Information:

- Website
- Social Media
- Webinars
- Live Presentations
- Conversations
- Visits
- Online Resources
- National Collaborative



was learning for many... go down
continued in spite of the weather. Over forty negative
schools and districts took advantage of the positive
Virtual Option for Inclement Weather last year schools
and had teaching and learning happening
online. While we are hoping for a mild winter
this year, the IDOE will offer the Virtual Option
for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Virtual Option can be used in two ways.
First, districts may use it on a make-up day or
for make-up hours. This option allows for
districts to open a school during the make up time to provide for students that might have some challenges
learning away from the building (i.e.: supervision, internet and computer access, special need accommodations
etc.).

Second, the Virtual Option can be used ON an inclement weather day. This option is a much heavier lift for the
district as all special considerations for ALL students must still be addressed and met away from the buildings.

We do realize that each of our districts are unique and will have their own set of challenges with the Virtual
Option. However, as evidenced last year, each district, their families, and their communities will have their own
strategies for meeting those challenges. To honor those strategies, while still ensuring learning is happening
for ALL students, certain criteria has been established and MUST be met by the district/school.

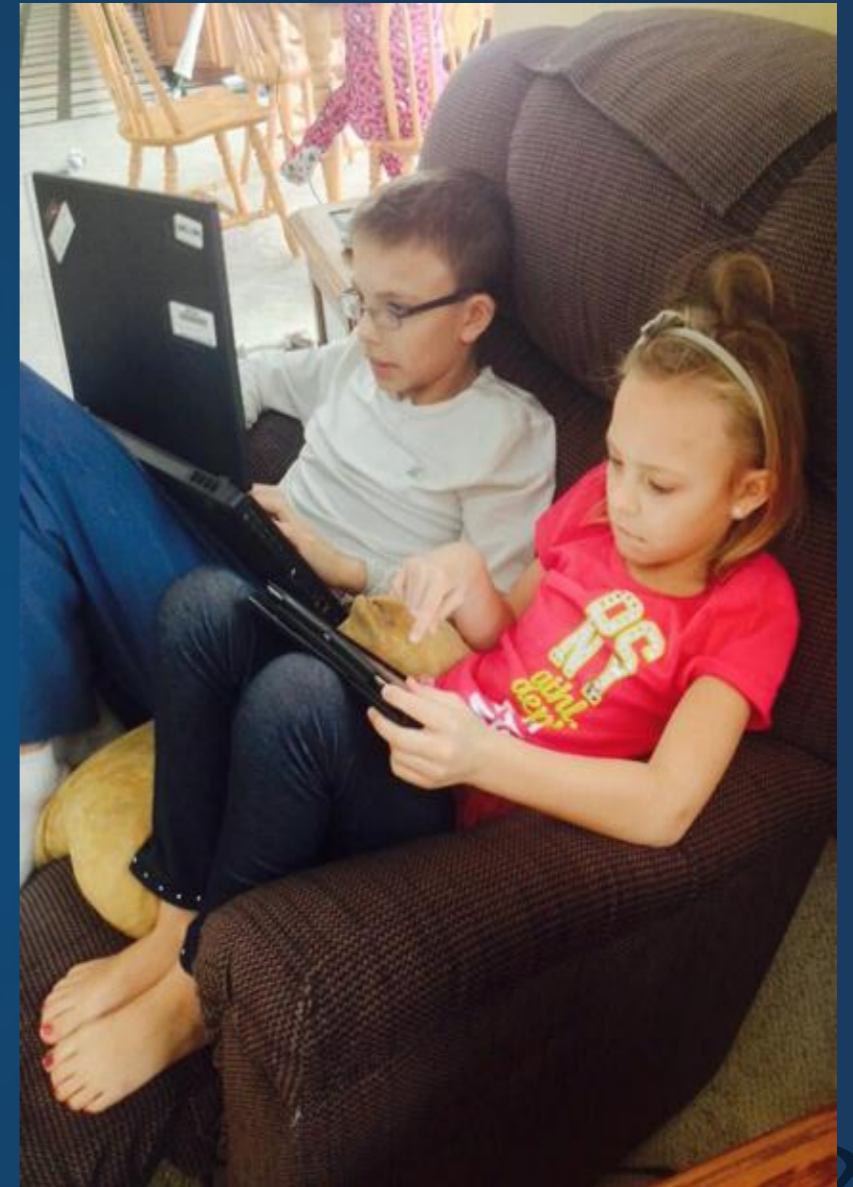
The criteria for the 2014-2015 Virtual Option for Inclement Weather can be found in the [online application](#)
If your district/school plans on utilizing the Virtual Option for Inclement Weather during the 2014-2015 school
year, you must complete the online application and receive approval from the Office of eLearning prior to
this option. Please allow two-weeks from application submittal to approval. The application will remain open
through May 1, 2015. All districts/schools that utilize the Virtual Option will submit a report of dates/times
used to the Office of eLearning by June 30, 2015.

If you have questions or are looking for resources for utilizing the Virtual Option, please view our archived
webinar, [Riding the Storm Out-- Virtual Options for Learning](#), or view [this presentation](#).
If you have additional questions, please email [Candice Dodson](mailto:Candice.Dodson@doe.edu), Director of eLearning.



Virtual Option for Inclement Weather 2014-2015

- 35 Public and Charter Districts
- 10 Private and Parochial Schools
- Public/Charter-71% are A or B Districts



Yorktown Community Schools



Zionsville Community Schools

Maconaquah School Corporation



Goals

- Reduce number of days added at end of year
- Provide instruction in keeping with scope and sequence of curriculum and prior to the start of Standardized and AP testing
- Offer students strong experiences with digital learning(part of college and career readiness)
- Increase teacher capacity to design and deliver quality digital instruction

Virtual Learning Day Prep

- **Establish a Vision and Expectations for the Day**
 - Instruction Delivery-Establish a Structure
 - Engaging Activities (Authentic Instruction, Practice/Apply, Check for Understanding)
 - Rigor and Relevance
 - Assignment Differentiation/Special Accommodations
 - Expectations for Student & Teacher Participation
 - Attendance
- **Communicate Expectations to All**
- **Provide Support**
 - Professional Development
 - Establish Tech Help Line/System for Contact for Assistance (ADVERTISE)



FAQs

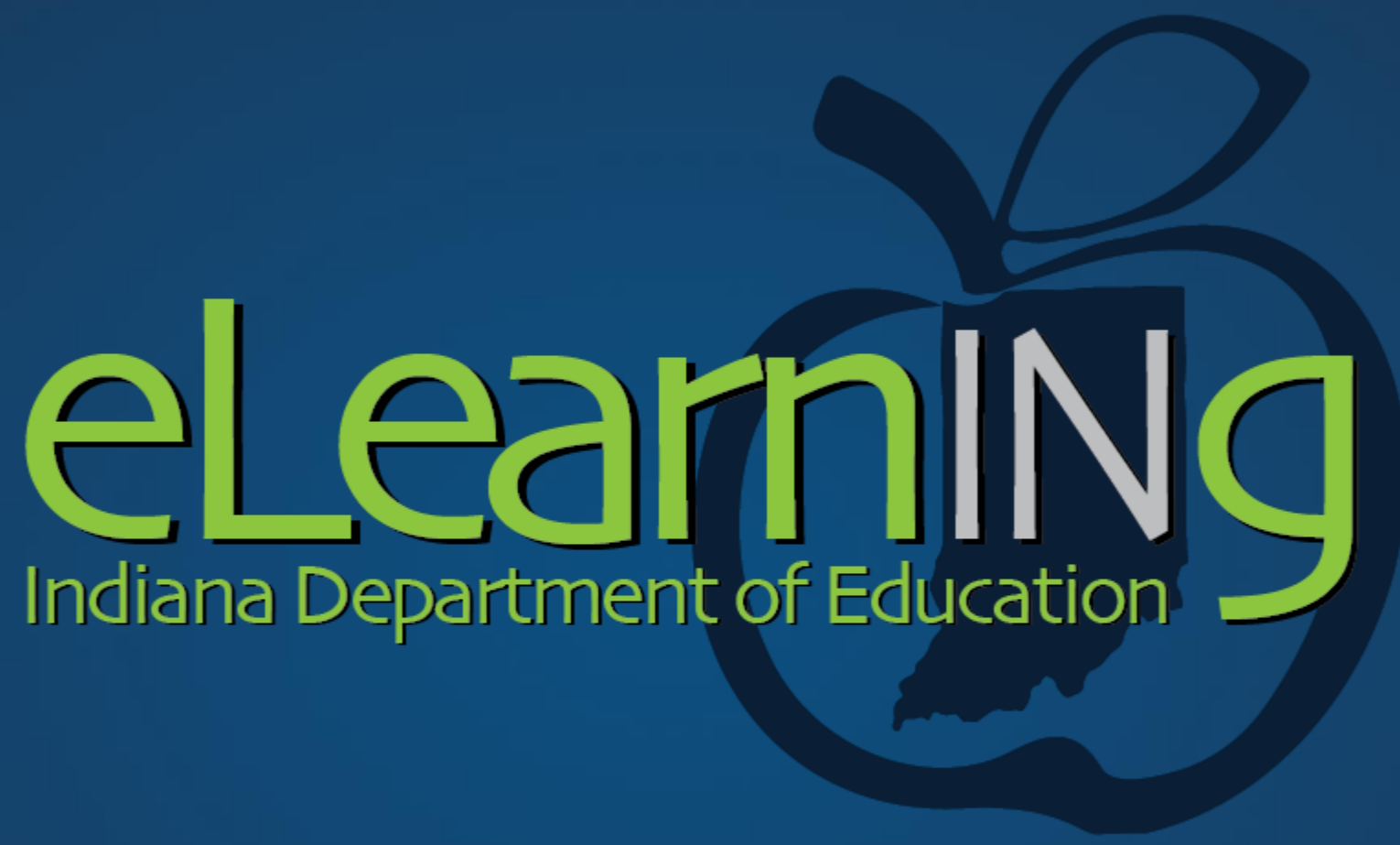


- What plans do we need to make for students with special needs?
- What do we need to do for our students without Internet access at home?
- What tools and resources do our teachers need to be successful on a virtual learning day?
- What does a quality lesson for virtual learning look like?
- How many hours should my student be expected to work on a virtual learning day?
- What technology help will be available on a virtual learning day?

Tips

- Communicate, communicate, communicate!
- Work collaboratively with your teacher association.
- Consider what the work day looks like for all employees (IAs, counsellors, etc.)
- Establish quality standards/examples: This should not be the first time students have worked in this format.
- Consider community resources.
- Use social media to share virtual learning day experiences. Create a hashtag for all to use.





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