

McLean County Unit District No. 5
1809 West Hovey Avenue
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To: Unit 5 Board of Education and Dr. Weikle

From: Michelle Lambole, Assistant Superintendent
Kris Pennington, Director of Early Learning
Maureen Backe, Director of Elementary Education
Deidre Ripka, Director of Secondary Education

Date: June 25, 2026

Re: E-Learning Plan Updates

School Districts may utilize e-learning days in lieu of emergency days. The plan for these days must be reviewed and adopted every 3 years. In order to prepare for the 2026-2029 adoption, the following was completed:

- Data was collected from parents as part of the calendar survey in the Fall of 2025. Survey results indicated that 68.1% of families and staff preferred to use e-learning days in lieu of snow days.
- Data was collected in February 2026 from staff at all levels to gain feedback on the current schedule and expectations. 65.2% of Early Learning Staff, 71.6% of Elementary Staff, and 92.2% of Secondary Staff reported they were very satisfied or neutral on the current schedule and expectations.
- Work to review and update the current schedule and expectations was completed with input from specific early learning, elementary, and secondary staff.

The following updates have been made to each level based on the feedback from the survey and input from the task forces:

Early Learning

- Synchronous instruction has been updated to a more age-appropriate timeframe, and additional asynchronous activities have been added for families.
- A Program-wide spreadsheet for Google Meets Family links has been created to provide better communication between home and school so that office staff can provide Google Meet links to families who may call into the office.
- Program-wide common time for all classrooms to provide synchronous instruction.
Program-wide common time for office hours.



Elementary

- Standardized eLearning Access: Classroom teachers will provide the primary student access link, and area teachers will join through that link, creating a simpler and more consistent experience for students and families.
- Created Grade-Level Resources: Developed sample schedules and guidance for synchronous and asynchronous learning to provide consistency across schools
- Clarified Live Instruction Expectations: Reinforced that synchronous learning can include mini-lessons, videos, guided practice, collaboration, and independent work, rather than requiring teachers to provide direct instruction for the entire session.

Secondary

- Middle school changes were made in response to their new bell schedule.
- No changes were made at the high school level.
- Communication about expectations for teachers, students, and families will continue with a clear understanding for staff and students of the required time to be synchronous.

The [Staff expectations](#) will be shared at the October institute day with time for staff to prepare. Student expectations and family information is also being updated and will be shared in November as a reminder.



