



Department of Teaching & Learning

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eLearning Days FAQ (Remote Learning as a result of COVID-19) March 16th-April 30th, 2020

What is eLearning and how is District 109 using it during the “stay-at-home” order?

The state of Illinois has advised that schools provide “remote learning” opportunities to students in lieu of “in-person” person learning during the “stay-at-home” order. District 109 already presents content electronically to supplement learning in a number of ways (i.e. Seesaw, Google Classroom, digital tools, online textbooks, etc.). During the “stay-at-home” order, eLearning (“e” meaning electronic) will become the direct method of providing students with learning opportunities.

How long will District 109 students be participating in eLearning?

Governor Pritzker has currently established the “stay-at-home” order for the state of Illinois through April 30th. If able to return to our schools after that date, we will. If an extension is announced, we will communicate with 109 families as soon as possible.

Will we have to make-up any of these days?

No. The state has asked districts to deliver Continuous Learning and/or Remote Learning since the closure. Some March dates were designated as “Act of God” days, however, eLearning continued in District 109. The last day of school is currently scheduled for Friday, June 5th.

What does my child’s schedule look like during eLearning days?

Elementary (K-5) students and families will receive the next day’s assignment the evening prior (no later than 7 PM). Teachers will communicate or check-in with students between 8:30-9:00 AM each morning. Required learning may be required from 8:30-11:30 AM daily. If students need to prioritize assigned activities, they should choose English-Language Arts and Math. Science, Leader in Me, Art, Music, STEM, and PE activities will also be shared regularly.

Middle school (6-8) students will continue to follow the sequence of their daily schedule; however, classes will be shortened to 30 minutes each. Students will use the afternoon for independent/collaborative work time to complete assignments. The schedule is shown here:

Schedule	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
8:00-9:00	Teacher “Office Hours”		
9:00-9:30	Core 1	Core 1	Encore 1

9:30-10:00	Core 2	Core 2	Encore 2
10:00-10:30	Core 3	Encore 1	Encore 3
10:30-11:00	Core 4	Encore 2	Core 1
11:00-11:30	Encore 1	Encore 3	Core 2
11:30-12:00	Encore 2	Core 3	Core 3
12:00-12:30	Encore 3	Core 4	Core 4
12:30-1:30	Lunch		
1:30-3:00	Independent/Collaborative Student Work		

When is the best time to contact teachers?

Elementary teachers will hold “office hours” between 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM. Middle School teachers will hold “office hours” between 8:00 and 9:00 AM. If students or families have questions, this would be the best time to make contact, as they will be closely monitoring email. Teachers will be involved in team planning and professional learning in the afternoons so accessibility may be more limited at that time.

What if we would like more learning activities for our child?

Our Library Information Specialists, STEM teachers, and the District Innovation Specialist have created many learning extensions and a 109 Virtual Library that can be found [on the district website](#). Students are also encouraged to continue with independent reading and/or use of the adaptive digital tools available on their student device.

Are learning activities required or optional?

Students should plan to complete the assigned learning activities. Teachers will be monitoring student attendance and engagement in activities during the Remote Learning Days.

How will grades be assigned?

Using ISBE’s guidance, we will be recording “pass/incomplete” grades for assignments given during this time. While feedback cannot be as regular or as specific as a teacher is able to provide in-person, it is the goal to give as much quality feedback as possible. In the elementary school, this could be provided via comments on Seesaw or Google Classroom. In the middle schools, teachers may continue to place grades on assignments as an evaluation of student progress. Grading and/or feedback will only be used to support growth and help students continue academic progress. Given the unique and unknown circumstances of families during this difficult time, grades and feedback will not result in a negative impact to a child’s record.

What if my child needs tech support on an eLearning day?

Families may access 24/7 tech support via our network providers, Net56, at 847-934-8100, Option 2.

What if my child's Chromebook breaks during the eLearning days and needs replacement?

First, contact the Net56 hotline for troubleshooting. If the HelpDesk deems that the device needs replacement, contact information will be recorded and a technician will contact the family regarding next steps.

What are the plans for 8th grade graduation and other end-of-year events?

No decisions have been made at this time. As soon as a decision can be made regarding a return to onsite learning, the District 109 team will be able to make decisions regarding important end-of-year activities. It is our hope that we can celebrate with our students, however, we will only proceed with in-person plans if it is deemed safe.

How will this loss of direct instructional time affect my child's educational future?

Every student is experiencing the same educational challenges. In District 109, students experienced strong instructional opportunities through March 12th, and our teachers have been dedicated to providing quality eLearning opportunities and student support since Monday, March 16th. During eLearning, we will remain focused on providing the most essential learning for each grade level. When in-person instruction resumes, we will assess student needs and make curriculum adjustments as needed.

I have heard that my friend's daughter is receiving daily, hour-long instruction via Zoom from her classroom teacher. Why is my son not experiencing the same?

There are a number of reasons why a strategy or teaching technique may work well for one situation and not in another. Differences in content, curricula, and students' stamina exist. Additionally, teachers may have unique instructional styles, pedagogy, and circumstances. We ask that parents understand and appreciate that our teachers are focused on making connections and delivering quality content in a manageable way. There will be some variation.

During remote learning, much of the learning will be asynchronous. Students will be provided with activities, sometimes accompanied with video instruction, to continue working toward mastery of important standards. They will complete these activities as best they can, and are able to do so independently, in peer groups, or with home support. Synchronous learning sessions, often done via Zoom or Google Meet, is also an option our teachers may occasionally employ. The purpose of these opportunities are typically to answer questions, create connections, offer discussion on content, and/or provide feedback. Whole class or small group instruction using synchronous learning may occur; classroom teachers providing extensive hours of video conferencing or individual student sessions should not be expected.

When video conferencing is offered, what guidelines should be followed?

- 1) Advise your child to use wifi instead of cellular data if you do not have an unlimited plan. Video will consume large amounts of data.
- 2) The camera can be on or off. When the camera is on, students should be aware of their surroundings and attire.
- 3) Students should mute themselves when not speaking to avoid background noise and distractions.
- 4) Login information to established Zoom or Google Hangout sessions should not be shared. Security protocols are being followed by the district and 109 teachers to keep students safe.
- 5) While we will not be individually restricting access to synchronous tools, parents are encouraged to set parameters for their children that they feel appropriate during this time.

- 6) Be flexible with our teachers. Many of them have young children at home who are also navigating eLearning. They are also doing the best they can under new circumstances.

How will the closure of school impact assessments and placements?

Per state and federal guidance, the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) will not be administered this spring. If able to return to in-person learning this spring, District 109 will be using the remainder of school days to prioritize instructional opportunity over assessment; therefore, NWEA MAP and other summative measures will likely be postponed. For purposes of placement, the district will review all standardized assessment administered within the last year and gather teacher feedback. As a reminder, placement in the advanced math pathway in grades 5-8 requires consistent performance at or above the 95th percentile and meeting/exceeding on state assessments. Also, as approved at the March School Board meeting, a third grade-level pathway will be available in grades 7 and 8. Additional information will be coming in May.

My child is anxious and worried right now. Does the district have any resources to provide support?

This can be a very anxiety-provoking time for children and adults alike. Please know that your child's emotional health comes first, and if you feel the need to pause on academic assignments to support your child, please do so. Our counselors, school psychologists, and social workers are also available if you would like to discuss strategies to help your child cope with this unsettling situation. In addition, the district has compiled a list of [Social-Emotional Learning Resources](#) which can also be found on the website.

It's almost impossible to monitor my child's learning and completion of assignments, as I'm also working from home.

Many of our teachers are working hard to provide meaningful teaching and learning for their students, while also simultaneously balancing the support of their own families. Please work with your child's teacher(s) when modifications are needed. They will likely be able to offer suggestions about what subjects/skills to prioritize, as well as how assignments can be adjusted.

My child left something at school that needs to be retrieved. When and how can we do this?

For the safety of our school community, District 109 buildings are currently closed. In the event that the school closure is extended through the end of the school year, we will coordinate structured opportunities for families to pick-up items that have been left in buildings.