

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Huntingdon Area School District Flexible Instructional Day

Initial Implementation Information

Huntingdon, PA (July 29, 2019) - Huntingdon Area School District announces today that they will be having Flexible Instructional Days (FID) during the 2019 - 2020 school year. Senate Bill 440 was voted into law at the end of June in Harrisburg and has given the Pennsylvania Department of Education the authority to grant Flexible Instructional Days to districts in a number not to exceed 5 (five) days. Due to the recent approval of the bill, guidelines from the department are still forthcoming and the district will be responsive to those guidelines.

The Huntingdon Area School District will be conducting a test run of the Flexible Instructional Day on October 14, 2019. Learners and staff will participate in lessons, projects and activities using digital and offline resources as a natural extension of the classroom with a level of rigor and curricular relevance as expected on a regular school day. Teachers will be available in digital capacity throughout the day to answer questions and provide support. This maintains the flow of instruction, keeps learners actively engaged in current curriculum and allows for continuation of learning. On a practical note, as a district we feel the addition of these days will increase engagement in the curriculum before such events as state required testing, spring events and end of the year activities.

Accommodations and specifically designed instruction will be made for learners with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Learners that require adaptations and modifications will receive those adaptations before the FID. Special education teachers will provide resources and lessons in a recorded format or live sessions throughout the FID. Special education teacher will also be available in the same methods as listed above.

Attendance will need to be taken on the days that are considered FID. On a FID a google form will be posted on the district website (huntsd.org) to track attendance. If a learner or family cannot access the form for whatever reason, they are required to send a note in the next day explaining what the child did to complete the FID requirements to be counted in

attendance. If a child is sick on a FID, an excuse is still required. FIDs will count toward truancy proceedings and if an entry on the google form, a note or an excuse are not received the learner will be marked with an unexcused absence.

Learners will use similar online resources that are currently utilized as part of their regular instructional day. Any assigned work will be reviewed with learners prior to a FID. Learners that do not have access to the internet from outside the district building on the FID will be able to request hard-copy of the lesson on the day prior to FID, or in the instance of an unexpected internet issue, the next regular school day. The district is asking that all learners, families, faculty, staff and administrators work together to ensure learners are getting what they need in the event of an FID.

As the 2019-2020 school year progresses, as mentioned, the district will begin with a test FID on October 14th. After that day a survey will be distributed to all stakeholders asking for input and areas that can be improved upon before the next FID. After the test day the first three weather related cancelations will result in the use of the scheduled weather make-up days as traditional school days (February 18th, March 16th, & April 14th). The next four cancelations could result in calling a FID. Any additional cancelations would be additional days added to the calendar and if for whatever reason a FID is not possible, additional days may be added to the calendar.

The amount of legitimate, digital resources and opportunities for online communication become available and commonplace, our learners and staff will be afforded infinite opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom walls and hours of operation. In addition, the Teacher Effectiveness, Danielson Framework, outline areas where educators can reach a distinguished rating that Flexible Instructional Days help facilitate. Areas such as planning ahead for misconceptions, keeping lesson and unit structure, learners initiating improvements in their work, technology being utilized skillfully, adapting lessons for individual learners and communicating effectively with all stakeholders are critical to FID success and educator effectiveness. This flexibility presents the realization the schools can function in a virtual presence to minimize the disruption of school cancellations to the school schedule. Learners and families will begin to receive more specific procedural information as the FID test day on October 14th draws closer.