

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) e-Learning Days (MN statutes, section 120A.414)

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) e-Learning Days statute outlines how Minnesota school districts can implement these instructional days. All schools in Minnesota have a required amount of time for which students must attend. In the event of a school closure due to inclement weather, learning expectations for all students continue through “e-Learning” activities, which will serve as student contact days. In the event that we have a school cancellation due to inclement weather, E Learning Days help students meet attendance requirements and continue with their learning. Thank you for partnering with us as we strive to provide meaningful, Minnesota State Standards-aligned, learning activities for our students. Learning activities will be web-based (Schoology, Google Classroom, Duolingo, etc). Teachers will communicate assignments and when they are due. Students should check schoology for assignments. Teachers will be required to grade materials.

When will families/students be notified?

Families will be notified a minimum of 2 hours before the start of school. Messaging will be sent out via Infinite Campus. Messages will also be distributed on the district website, social media, and appear on local television stations.

What if my family does not have WiFi access?

In preparation for E-Learning Days, students without WiFi access at home will be loaned a mobile hotspot as well as a chromebook. UMA will have these on-site and loanable throughout the year. Weather forecasts will be monitored to ensure that students leave with necessary supplies as severe weather approaches. *Please note: students/families are responsible for the safe return of borrowed equipment and are financially responsible for replacement or repair.*

When will teachers be available?

Teachers will work the normal school day hours (8:40 am - 4:40 pm) during an e-learning day and will be available to students by email, phone, or online processes (Schoology or Google). The only time staff are not available is during their Prep Time or regularly scheduled UMA lunch time. Students should follow the instructions provided by teachers via email or through Upper Mississippi Academy’s website (<https://umissacademy.org>).

Is attendance taken for an e-Learning Day?

Yes. Attendance is *taken and verified* by student log into their classes. Students who do not log in will be marked absent by the teacher. E-learning days are counted as school days.

Will there be support for students receiving special education services?

Yes. Special Education Case Managers and 1:1 paraprofessionals will be checking in with students via email or phone to support students with their assignments during their scheduled class times. Special Education Case Managers and paraprofessionals will be available via school email and google voice throughout the school day and will respond within a reasonable time period.

What if the Governor cancels schools across MN on an e-Learning Day?

If the Governor cancels school statewide, we will not have an e-Learning day and teaching staff will not report to work.

Why do we need e-Learning Days?

E-Learning Days are a continuation of curriculum and classroom instruction. UMA's plan is built upon the best practices of work already occurring in school districts across Minnesota, while adhering to Minnesota Statutes.

Can families choose to opt out of e-Learning days?

Students whose family chooses to not participate in the e-Learning day are reported as absent. It is up to the school whether to consider this an excused absence, according to Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 12.

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<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120A.414>

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) e-Learning Days statute outlines how Minnesota school districts can implement these instructional days. According to the statute:

--Definition: "E-learning day" means a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by students' individual teachers due to inclement weather.

--Each student's teacher must be accessible both online and by telephone during normal school hours on an e-learning day to assist students and parents.

--Notify parents and students at least two hours prior to the normal school start time that students need to follow the e-learning day plan for that day.

--Notify parents and students of the e-Learning Day plan at the beginning of the school year. (Notification for the 2019-2020 school year occurred during fall conferences and via email during the Fall Semester.)

--Accommodations for students without sufficient access to the Internet, hardware or software in their homes. (School administration, teachers, and other staff continually work with families to ensure equitable access to online learning resources including distributing “hot spots” or alternative resources.)