



## Inclement Weather Guidance for 2020-21

*October 29, 2020*

School districts and charter schools have prepared for three different scenarios for the 2020-21 school year. However, inclement weather may affect those plans. This guidance specifically addresses how schools may adjust their Safe Learning Plans in order to respond to inclement weather and possible school closures.

**Regardless of learning model, school districts and charter schools should update their plans** to include when and how decisions and learning plans will be communicated to families, expectations for teaching staff providing instruction, and expectations for students on potential inclement weather days.

### Distance Learning

Schools that are operating in distance learning can either close due to inclement weather and use a non-instructional day or remain open if they are able to provide instruction through distance learning. Decision makers should consider the ability of all students and teaching staff to access the Internet in their homes so that teaching and learning can occur.

### Hybrid Learning

Schools operating a hybrid learning model can either close for all students enrolled in the school site and use a non-instructional day or remain “open” if they are able to provide instruction to all students through distance learning. Decision makers should consider the ability of all students and teaching staff to access the Internet in their homes so that teaching and learning can occur.

### In-person Learning

Schools operating full in-person instruction can either close for all students enrolled in the school site and use a non-instructional day or remain open if they are able to provide instruction using an e-learning day if they have an e-Learning Day plan in place at the beginning of the school year (see MN Statute 120A.414).

### E-Learning Days

The 2017 Legislature amended the Length of School Year; Hours of Instruction (Minn. Stat. § 120A.41) to include the option of a school utilizing e-Learning days, due to inclement weather, for up to **five days** in one school year

to be counted as an instructional day and included as hours of instruction. [This memo](#) provides information on the development of local e-Learning Day plans and considerations for decision makers. E-Learning Day plans must be adopted and communicated to families at the beginning of the school year.

## **Providing Meals**

School districts and charter schools should attempt to continue to provide meals to the extent possible, when in-person instruction is cancelled.

## **School-Age Care**

School districts and charter schools are not required to operate school-age care for children of critical workers if a snow day is called, or a situation where they would have normally called a snow day and are instead holding a distance learning or e-learning day. However, if it is safe and feasible to do so, schools are encouraged to operate their school-age care for children of critical worker programs on these days.