

November 18, 2020

Hanover School Committee

Procedures for Snow Days:

Most school districts statewide are establishing plans for snow days to be remote learning days to maintain continuity. Each district is different based on their individual model and schedule. DESE guidance on this issue is below. If any student or family is without electricity and cannot access the online learning platform or Zoom, it will be understood that teachers and administrators will be flexible with assignment and deadlines, and the student would not be penalized for their absence. Likewise, teachers without power or access will notify their principal and a message will be shared with their students to follow the assignments in Google Classroom or Seesaw.

Option 1: It is expected that instruction would begin at 10:00 a.m. to provide families time to get organized, allow for power restoration, and assure safety at home. In almost all cases, we have a high degree of confidence about a possible snow day a day in advance of the cancellation. This affords our teachers time to establish plans with their students and principals can adjust schedules if necessary. Given the different capabilities and needs at each level, these are the general expectations:

Cedar School

Cedar School will utilize SeeSaw and available online learning platforms to provide asynchronous lessons for Kindergarten and First Grade. To the extent possible these will be published prior to the snow emergency so that families can plan ahead. Similar to the blizzard bag concept, students will have a list of assignments available to promote learning and minimize regression.

Center School

Center School will execute its Remote Learning Plan. Published on Google Classroom, The Remote Learning Plan would include a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning throughout the school day for all students.

Middle School and High School

These schools will provide all classes beginning at 10:00 a.m. and going through each class in a modified shortened schedule utilizing our remote learning platform, Zoom. Students in both cohorts are expected to log in and be present during the remote classes and lessons will be provided in Google Classroom.

Option 2: If the Committee wants to consider other options, one alternative could be to have “normal” snow days that would be made up at the end of the year or during school vacation weeks in February or April pending School Committee approval.

In order to give administration and teachers time to plan and to communicate the plan with families, we are requesting a vote to approve these recommended snow day procedures.

DESE Guidance:

For the 2020-2021 school year, because of the pandemic, each district has created a plan that includes a remote learning model. As set out in DESE's regulations ([603 CMR 27.00](#)), remote learning may include synchronous or asynchronous components, provided that students have opportunities to regularly interact with teachers, such as through feedback, office hours, and other regularly scheduled individual student interactions. Remote learning models must include the following components:

- 1. procedures for all students to participate in remote learning, including a system for tracking attendance and participation;*
- 2. remote academic work shall be aligned to state standards;*
- 3. a policy for issuing grades for students' remote academic work; and*
- 4. teachers and administrators shall regularly communicate with students and their parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.*

The Commissioner has determined that for this school year only (2020-2021), if there are days when schools must close because of inclement weather or other emergency, districts may choose whether to treat those days as "snow days" to be made up later or provide all students with remote learning on those days in a manner that is consistent with the regulatory requirements listed above. This decision will be made at the local level.