



October 4, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are excited to announce that Spartanburg District 7 is one of five South Carolina school systems selected by the Education Oversight Committee as part of an **eLearning Pilot Program** for the 2018-19 school year. This program allows students to work virtually from home when the District is closed. D7 will use eLearning Days for inclement weather or for unusual disruptions to the regular school schedule.

We have compiled a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** to help parents, students, and teachers begin to prepare.

FAQ

What is an eLearning Day? On eLearning Days, students and teachers do not report to school, but will complete classroom activities using technology (grades 4-12). We can use up to three (3) eLearning Days and will decide if we use consecutive days on a case-by-case basis.

How and when will students and parents know if an eLearning Day will take place? We will communicate school cancellations and the announcement of an eLearning Day through phone calls, district/school websites, social media (Facebook and Twitter), and local media.

How will students be informed about assignments during an eLearning Day? In grades 4-12, teachers will post their assignments on Schoology or Office 365. When possible, students will download their assignments to their MacBook ahead of time at school.

How will students get help on their assignments on an eLearning Day? Teachers will be available through Schoology, email and school voicemail (when listed) which will be posted on their class website.

How much school work will students be required to accomplish? We will not overload our students with busy work but will provide meaningful learning activities related to their current unit of study. Assignments should take a reasonable amount of time to complete when on task.

When will assignments be due? As students complete their work, they should upload their assignments. If an Internet connection is not available, they will have up to two school days after the last school cancellation to turn in assigned work.

Attendance and Grading - all students will initially be counted as *present* on the eLearning Day. However, if the assigned work is not completed and submitted within the 2-day grace period, the student must be coded as *absent* on the day that school was cancelled. Since their assignments are just like any others, failure to do their work will be graded in accordance with the teacher's grading policy.

Do students with identified special learning needs have an alternative means to access their education on e-Learning days? Yes, individual supports, services and accommodations for students with an Individual Education Program (IEP), English Learners or a Section 504 Plan will be followed as a part of eLearning.

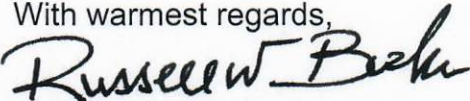
Will my student have an opportunity to learn more about how an eLearning day works? Yes, our schools will schedule a mock eLearning Day where teachers will show students how to retrieve and complete their digital lessons just like they will do during a real eLearning Day.

What about my child in PK-3rd grade? – Students in these grades do not have take-home devices. When an eLearning Day looks likely, activities will be sent home. Your student will need guidance at home to complete the activities.

The main point to remember is that this is a *pilot*. We know there will be some challenges and opportunities for improvement. The purpose is to collect feedback to help develop a statewide model that can be successful in all schools in SC.

We should all be proud that our district was selected for having the capacity and potential to implement this promising program.

If you have any questions or comments you would like to share, please feel free to contact me.

With warmest regards,


Russell W. Booker, Ph.D.
Superintendent