

Northwest R-I School District Parent Guidance for

Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Inclement Weather or Emergency School Closure

&

Alternative Methods of Instruction-X (AMI-X) Extended School Closure



The Mission of the Northwest School District is to ensure all graduates/students are **respectful**, **responsible**, and **resilient** life-long learners **ready** for success in a complex and ever-changing world.

Why does this document exist?

In the event of any future long term closures (AMI-X) of the district or individual building the Northwest R-1 School District is creating a contingency plan for learning to continue through Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI-X).

Schools, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments. Schools serve students and staff throughout the community. The district will follow the guidelines and procedures that are provided by CDC and local health officials to the extent possible. For detailed information please see the district website.

In the event of an inclement weather or emergency school closure (AMI) the district has created a plan for learning through the approved AMI Plan.

What is the difference between AMI and AMI-X?

- AMI-X is an extended school closure. Buildings are closed, but students learn at home with schedules and assignments communicated by their classroom teachers.
- AMI (Alternative Method of Instruction) are "virtual" days due to inclement weather or emergency school closure. Buildings are closed, but students learn at home with assignments provided by their classroom teachers. Elementary students will receive a schedule that communicates when they should log on to their classes.
- Secondary students should follow their A/B schedule for that particular day. AMI days will not impact OnLionEdu students. They will proceed with their regularly scheduled lesson plans.
- ***AMI closure days will follow their current Wednesday schedule.**

So what will happen if we experience another extended school closure?

Should Northwest R-1 School District determine the need to close the district or specific schools, district certified staff will implement what is called Alternative Methods of Instruction-X (AMI-X). Our instruction, monitoring, and assignment completion will shift to online for the defined period of time. This AMI plan has been developed with the help of task force members and parent and staff feedback. AMI learning will be more rigorous and expectations are further explained in this document.

If these unexpected circumstances affect the school district and school is closed for an extended period, this document will provide guidance to students and families throughout the closure. Students will be able to access assignments via the internet or other specially-prepared learning materials. This alternative will help parents, guardians, and school employees continue the **academic progress** of students. The technology we already have in place and provided by the school system will enhance teachers' abilities to communicate with students while being away from the school structure.

Northwest R-1 School District is not aiming to take away the magical time for play and physical activity for all of our learners. The lessons that are designed can be immediately completed and turned in using an online platform.

What if my child has an Individualized Education Plan and/or a 504 plan?

In the event of another school closure, the Northwest R-1 School District assures that the instructional plan for AMI days for students with disabilities is documented in each individual student's individualized education program (IEP) according to the [guidance developed by the Missouri DESE Office of Special Education](#).

Specialized instruction will be provided as stated in each IEP/504 according to State and Federal regulations. Case managers will be in contact with individual families to support student learning. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Service Department at 636-692-0470.

How will we know we are moving to AMI or AMI-X?

Students and/or families will receive communication from their respective principal and/or teacher that would provide information on schedules/classwork/projects/activities to be completed from home on these days. Information regarding AMI-X days will be updated on the Northwest R-1 District website and social media.

AMI for inclement weather or emergency closures will be posted through district communication platforms and media outlets in the greater St. Louis area.

Does my child's attendance matter during AMI or AMI-X?

Students' attendance matters and counts during an AMI day, as new learning will continue. Students should follow the teacher-provided guidance as well as guidance in this document. Participation in virtual meetings and completion of work will be a part of student learning accountability. The district will take attendance in Infinite Campus and will be used in accordance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements.

Teacher/Therapist/Paraprofessional Availability

Teachers/Therapists/Paraprofessionals are expected to have office hours. Office hours will be communicated to you by your student's teacher. Teachers will identify three virtual office hours within their weekly schedule. Virtual office hours are for students to request a virtual meeting or phone call for specific help. If the communicated times do not work, please contact the teacher via email for alternative arrangements.

Communication and Academic Content Delivery

As a parent, you should expect that teachers/therapists will be in contact with you two times per week. Teachers and therapists may communicate more if needed. Communication will be delivered in the form of phone calls, emails, and classroom platforms. Communication may be academic in nature or may be to see how your student and family are doing. The staff wants to be supportive of students and their needs during this time.

Permission needs to be provided by parents/guardians of students in order to participate in virtual meetings. Virtual participation is signed-off by parents in the Student Handbook. Students whose parents have not signed the Student Handbook will not be allowed to participate in virtual meetings until the form has been received.

Daily Instructional Time (EXAMPLE)

Grade Level	Daily Instructional Time	AMI Could Include
PreK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 20 minutes ● 5-10 minute time spans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being read to & engaging in texts ● Counting/math literacy ● Letter identification ● Creativeness (building, drawing, etc.) ● Virtual Meeting one time per week ● Additional time as desired for special areas per SeeSaw ● Social Emotional Learning
K-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 60-75 minutes ● 10-15 minute time spans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent reading, being read to, writing, reading using reading platforms, or other ELA activities (small group time) ● iReady platform 3xs per week for both reading and math ● math practice sheets, flashcards, or using other math platforms ● Science and Social Studies ● Special areas ● Virtual Meetings ● Social-Emotional Learning

Grade Level	Daily Instructional Time	AMI Could Include
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 120-180 minutes ● 20 minute time spans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Literacy-Includes independent reading, being read to, writing, reading using reading platforms, or other ELA activities (small group time) ● iReady platform 3xs per week for both reading and math ● Math-Includes math practice sheets, flashcards, or using other math platforms (small group time) ● Special Areas ● Science and Social Studies activities ● Virtual Meetings ● Social-Emotional Learning
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 210 minutes ● 20- 30 minute time spans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Google Meets will be held with students following their school class schedule. ● Communication Arts-this could include independent reading, being read to, writing, reading using reading platforms, Project Based Learning, or other ELA activities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● iReady platform 3xs per week for both reading and math ● Math-this could include math practice sheets, flashcards, Project Based Learning, or using other math platforms ● Science this could include science practice sheets, flashcards, Project Based Learning or instructional strategies ● Social Studies this could include practice sheets, flashcards, Project Based Learning or instructional strategies ● Social Emotional Learning ● 30 minutes for each encore classes
9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approximately 210 minutes ● 30 minute time spans ● Dual Credit and AP courses will require time frames as advised by colleges and College Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Google Meets will be held with your students following their school class schedule. ● Communication Arts-this could include independent reading, being read to, writing, reading using reading platforms, Project Based Learning, or other ELA activities ● Math this could include math practice sheets. Project Based Learning, or using other math platforms ● Science this could include science practice sheets, flashcards, Project Based Learning or instructional strategies ● Social Studies this could include practice sheets, flashcards, Project Based Learning or instructional strategies ● Social Emotional Learning
<p>Daily schedules will be communicated by classroom teachers.</p> <p>*AMI closure days will follow their current Wednesday schedule.</p>		

Student Feedback

Teachers will provide feedback to students on their progress during AMI or AMI-X. Teachers will communicate with you and your students on what assignments will be added to *Infinite Campus* during a closure.

During times of AMI or AMI-X, grades will not be hold-harmless; their grades and attendance will matter.

Circumstances beyond the students control need to be advocated to the teacher and will be worked through on an individual basis.

Grading Protocols:

- Grades K-5
Standards Based Grading us the 1, 2 ,3, and 4 scale
- Grades 6-12
A, B, C, D, & F for accountability for assignments and assessments

Parent/Guardian Support

The Northwest School District recognizes that we cannot do this alone and need to work together in true Lion Nation fashion to ensure the safety and well-being of our students.

Here are a few ways parents/guardians can help:

- Understand that this plan is fluid and may be adjusted to meet the requirements of health officials, city, or state. We ask for your patience and understanding with our teaching staff and us as we work through AMI or AMI-X.
- Keep students from large gatherings outside of school especially if proper protocols are not being followed.
- Continue to remember the fluidity of this pandemic and understand that we may have to shut down a grade level, specific classes, sports/activities, school or district if the COVID-19 cases increase or there is an outbreak.
- Be responsible for your child being in attendance at virtual meetings and completing assignments.
- Work closely with case managers to ensure your child can attend any virtual meetings required (IEP, 504, ELL, ect.)
- Please communicate concerns immediately with teachers, case managers, and/or counselors.
- If you do not have internet access, please contact your building principal to discuss additional options.

As a district, we will make every effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff to return to the buildings. We thank you for your continued support of Lion Nation.

Thank you

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