

# Whitehall-Coplay School District



## **Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Guidelines for WCSD Parents and Guardians**

During the 2020-2021 School Year, the Whitehall-Coplay School District will be utilizing Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs).

### **What is a Flexible Instructional Day (FID)?**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approved the use of Flexible Instructional Days as an alternate form of instruction in place of a day canceled because of inclement weather or another emergency situation. On a FID, students must complete learning assignments and activities provided by their teacher(s) at home. The District can use up to five (5) FIDs per school year. FIDs are considered a school day and count toward the number of instructional days/hours required by Pennsylvania Public School Code.

### **Will there still be make-up dates built into the district calendar?**

Yes, make-up dates will continue to be built into the district calendar. A FID is an option that may be used in place of one or more canceled school days or make-up days but may not be used for all canceled school days in any given school year.

### **If the District calls for a FID, how will I know?**

Students and parents/guardians will be informed of a FID through the District's notification system in the same way that school closings and delays are currently announced. Notifications will be distributed via School Messenger and will be posted on the District's website, [www.whitehall-coplay.org](http://www.whitehall-coplay.org).

### **How will parents/guardians and students find the FID learning assignment and activities?**

Classroom teachers will have a link on their Learning Management System: Seesaw for students in kindergarten and first grade; Google Classroom for students in grades 2-12. The day's assignments and material will be available no later than 9:00 a.m. on the FID. Students will be expected to complete lessons for classes that are typically scheduled for that day, which includes specials, such as art, music, library, Discovery/STEM, physical education, and health.

### **How much time is my student expected to take to complete the assignments?**

Teachers have designed learning assignments and activities that are equivalent to time spent on a similar lesson in a regularly scheduled class period. Students working independently on an assignment will likely take less time to complete the assignments and activities than in a large group setting. The FID will count as a "Cycle Day."

### **How is a student expected to complete the assignments and activities if the student goes to daycare when school is canceled?**

If the student cannot access the internet or take a paper-copy of the learning assignments and activities to the daycare to complete that day, the student would have five (5) school days to complete the assignments.

**How can I contact a teacher or staff member during a FID?**

School-based professional staff will be available by email during the normal operating hours of their assigned building and will respond to email messages within 60 minutes on a FID. This includes special education teachers, reading specialists, English as a Second Language teachers, school counselors, nurses, speech therapists, as well as special subject teachers, such as art, music, library, Discovery/STEM, physical education, and health. Assignments will be available after 9:00 a.m.

**My child has an IEP. Will his/her lesson be modified appropriately?**

The FID lesson will be designed for students with special needs utilizing their program modifications, specially designed instruction, and supplementary aids and services identified in their individualized education plans. Upon return from a FID, teachers of students with special needs will meet with their students to review work submitted, checking for completion and understanding. Any related services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, etc.) scheduled during the FID will be rescheduled according to the frequency requirements of the student's individualized education plan.

**What if a student does not have access to a computer and/or internet to access the lesson or complete activities?**

If a FID is anticipated such as impending inclement weather, students in grades K-5 may be instructed to take home their assigned Chromebook. Students in grades 6-12 have a district-issued Chromebook. If a student does not have his/her district device, students may need to share resources in the home or other locations. Some students may want to work on offline options while others complete online assignments.

Parents and/or students should make teachers aware of a need for a paper-copy version of the assignment and activities. The teacher(s) may provide students with an offline version of the learning assignments and activities prior to the FID, or the student can obtain the assignments in a hard copy version during the next regular school day. Either way, students will have five (5) school days to complete the required learning assignments and activities.

**May a student access the assignments or complete the online assignments from their Smartphone?**

Seesaw and Google Classroom can be accessed from a variety of tablets, Smart phones, laptop, and desktop computers. The assignments may use a variety of websites and applications that may or may not work from a variety of devices.

**What happens if a student does not complete the FID assignments?**

Any student who fails to complete their FID assignment within five (5) school days will be marked as absent unexcused from school and will receive a zero on any graded assignment that was not submitted. This loss of points could negatively impact a student's marking period grade. Therefore, it would be in the best interest of the student to complete the assignment within the five (5) school days.

**What if a student is sick on the FID?**

If a student is sick on an FID, the parent/guardian must submit a written excuse just as he or she would have on a regular school day per school procedure. The student and/or parent/guardian should speak with the teacher regarding any required make-up work.

**What if a student is on a pre-arranged absence on the FID?**

The student absent on an FID would be expected to make up the learning assignments and activities within five (5) school days of returning to school just as if it were any other absence from school.