



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

Directions

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), building on the success of the opportunity provided in the 2021-2022 school year, is opening up a pathway for local education agencies (LEAs) to repurpose certain days as virtual school days in the 2022-2023 school year. To ensure meaningful and equitable virtual instruction during these days, pursuant to the Superintendent's authority under Education Article §2-303, the following process and attestations have been established to seek approval to repurpose certain days as virtual school days.

The days that may be considered for this opportunity include inclement weather days (i.e., snow days), staff professional learning days, high school graduation days to enable teachers to assist with or attend the graduation, or other similar circumstances described in this application.

School systems will have the opportunity to use a total of **eight days** as a virtual school day for the described purposes. The days may be synchronous or asynchronous, however, **no more than three of the eight days** may be used as an asynchronous day.

Please respond to each question within the box provided and review and check the box for each assurance. The completed application must be submitted to the State Superintendent for review and approval.



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

Devices and Access to Wi-Fi

Describe the school system's plan to ensure that all students (especially students who are homeless, students with disabilities, and English learner students) and teachers have the necessary devices at home for virtual days and have access to Wi-Fi.

Devices: Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) maintains a 1:1 device ratio (Chromebooks and PC laptops) prekindergarten through Grade 12. The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) will continue to implement remote tech support to provide timely support to students.

Wi-Fi: BCPS has provided wireless hotspots to all requesting families to ensure access to internet from home. To date, BCPS has over 3,000 student deployed hotspots.

Accommodations

Describe the plan to provide the student with a free appropriate public education and implement the learning continuity plan in the student's IEP (including specially designed instruction, related services, supplementary aides and services, and accommodations).



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

BCPS students with disabilities will continue to receive special education and related services and support in virtual inclement weather days. BCPS will offer the full continuum of educational services (e.g., fully included in the general education program for part or most of the day, special day school program); core instruction aligned to grade-level standards; related services; supplementary aids, services, and supports; and specially designed instruction in a variety of alternative delivery models to meet the needs of students. Special education supports and services will be provided within virtual classrooms, small groups, and individualized settings to ensure IEP goals relating to core instruction are supported and time with general education peers is realized. A free appropriate public education will continue to be provided when a school is temporarily placed on virtual instruction due to school closure with an IEP being implemented as written to the maximum extent possible and/or following the “IEP Planning for Emergency Conditions” sections of the IEP.

Students may receive academic, behavioral, and functional living instruction/ interventions, and strategies in a small group or individual setting. BCPS will provide related services (e.g., speech, occupational, physical therapy, vision, social work) through individual or small group virtual therapy sessions. Special education teachers and service providers will work with school staff to develop schedules that collaboratively allow for the implementation of instructional/ behavioral interventions and related services throughout the instructional day.

Child Find screening and evaluations for students aged three to five will be available and conducted both virtually as appropriate. Screening and assessment measures include in extensive parent interview, a review of the preschool teacher questionnaire, and other documents when available. Standardized measures, including parent rating scales, are administered virtually, when possible, given the parameters of each assessment and the individualized needs of the student.

Evaluations conducted by occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech/ language pathologists, and other related service providers may be conducted virtually as appropriate. Evaluations may include parent interviews, student observations, and standardized measures as appropriate.



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

Opportunity for Engagement

The completed Department required Virtual Day Instruction Plan and Attestation Template must be publicly presented and discussed at a local school board meeting. An opportunity for parents to publicly comment or submit comments must be included as part of the school board meeting. The completed Virtual Day Instruction Plan and Attestation Template submitted by the LEA must have been voted on and approved by the local board. This is a required element of the application. There will be no Department review or consideration for approval until this step is completed.

Date of Local Board of Education Meeting(s):
July 11, 2023

Survey was available in English and Spanish from May 26, 2023, to June 4, 2023.
11,371 responses were received.

Communication Process

Describe the communication process to students, teachers, parents/guardians, etc. that the day will be virtual (synchronous or asynchronous) and the plan for instruction.

In the event of forecasted inclement weather, BCPS will include information regarding a synchronous virtual instruction day as part of the system communication that is sent via e-mail, social media, telephone, and Web site emergency alert. Schools would operation on a 2-hour delay schedule to meet synchronous learning requirements and allow teachers an opportunity to adjust lessons for virtual instruction.

If this proposed plan is approved, BCPS will send a communication to all stakeholders to inform them of the virtual inclement weather day plans for the 2023-2024 school year.

Attendance Procedures for Asynchronous Days

Describe the specific procedures on how attendance will be taken on asynchronous days.



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

- Attendance will be captured in the Focus Student Information System (SIS). Directions for using the attendance functionality are found in the Focus SIS Schoology group.
- Attendance is defined as presence.
- Attendance will be recorded for official reporting purposes **and** for the identification of additional student supports.
- Daily and period attendance can be taken with the Focus SIS.

Elementary
Student logs into Schoology during a specific time frame.
Homeroom teacher checks the Schoology analytics for the student's last log in.
The teacher goes into the Focus SIS and marks the official attendance for the day.
Secondary
Student logs into Schoology during a specific time frame.
The designated teacher (as identified by the principal) checks the Schoology analytics for the student's last log in.
The designated teacher (as identified by the principal) goes into the Focus SIS and marks official attendance for the day.

Additional Circumstances anticipated for the use of a Virtual Day

Describe any other days that are anticipated for the use of a virtual day in your LEA.

- High schools with 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. graduation ceremonies on school days will transition to asynchronous learning to allow staff and student participation.
- One half day per semester for teacher professional development.

Additional Factors

Describe any other factors particular to the plan for virtual days in your LEA.

N/A



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

Attestations (Please check each box)

- ☒ There will be a minimum of four hours of synchronous instruction for all students on each synchronous virtual day.
- ☒ There will be no more than a total of eight virtual days.
- ☒ There will be no more than three asynchronous virtual days out of the total of eight possible virtual days.
- ☒ Attendance will be taken for all students and teachers during the virtual day.
- ☒ For asynchronous days, a transparent process will be used to take attendance.
- ☒ Virtual days will not negatively impact a student's grade. There will be meaningful opportunities for students to make up work outside of virtual learning.
- ☒ The Virtual Day Instruction Plan was presented at a publicly accessible local board of education meeting. Parents were provided an opportunity to provide comment on the plan and the local board of education voted in favor of the plan presented in this application.
- ☒ The Virtual Day Instruction Plan will be posted on the LEA website. The link will be provided to MSDE upon approval of the Virtual Day Instruction Plan by MSDE.
- ☒ No employee's pay will be negatively impacted by the decision to have a virtual day. This includes custodians, cafeteria workers, etc.
- ☒ Use of a virtual day for any grade or grade band counts as one of the school system's virtual days.



Virtual Day Instruction Plan 2023-2024 School Year

Signature indicates agreement with the process and attestations for virtual days to be implemented as indicated in the 2023-2024 school year. Please submit the completed plan to State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury by email at mohammed.choudhury@maryland.gov. The plan will be reviewed and response will be provided in a timely manner.

Local Education Agency _____ Baltimore County Public Schools _____

Superintendent _____ Dr. Myriam Yarbrough _____

Superintendent Signature _____ *Myriam Yarbrough* _____

Date _____ 7/25/2023 _____

Board President _____ Jane Lichter _____

Board President Signature _____ *Jane Lichter* _____

Date _____ 7.26.23 _____