

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #15
GRAY ♦ NEW GLOUCESTER

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MSAD 15 Remote Instruction Plan 2019-2020

Background

The COVID-19 global pandemic has created a need for MSAD 15 to examine instruction differently. In response to this threat, schools were closed from March 16-27, 2020. MSAD 15 staff and teachers reported on March 16th to provide home resources to students and families to support review and skills maintenance during this initial closure. On March 20, 2020, the school closure was extended through at least April 27, 2020. As such, District Administration developed the following plan to provide for the education of students in MSAD 15. This plan has been reviewed by the Gray-New Gloucester Teachers Association and the Gray-New Gloucester Support Staff Association.

School Calendar

- Remote instruction will begin on March 30, 2020 and extend until April 24, 2020.
- March 23, 24, 25, and 26 will be remote staff in-service days to prepare for the transition to remote instruction.
- MSAD 15 will utilize the waiver from the Maine Department of Education regarding compulsory attendance minimum student days for the five school days students and staff were not in session for the initial COVID-19 school closure (March 17, 18, 19, 20, & 27), students days for 2019-2020 will total 170.
- All early release days for the remainder of the school year are eliminated.
- April spring break is eliminated, maintaining the Patriot's Day Holiday. April 21-24 transitioned to remote instruction days.
- June 17, 2020 will be the last day of school for the 2019-2020 school year.
- June 18, 2020 will be the last teacher day for the 2019-2020 school year.

Remote Instruction

- All schools will transition to remote instruction as of March 30, 2020.
- Attendance during remote instruction will be recorded as follows:
 - Students and/or families engaged in digital communication with teachers via group/class video conferences, individual video or audio connections with a teacher, and/or direct email or text conversations shall be marked as present.
 - Students that don't engage via means listed above shall be marked present if the student submits or engages in assigned tasks, assignments, or activities.
 - Students that do not participate in at least one of the two above ways shall be marked "absent" for that day.
- High school and middle school teachers will post instructional resources and assignments and be available to students aligned with their schedules. Specific platforms, schedules,

and communication systems will be shared with parents and students in communications from the principal and directly from students' teachers.

- K-4 school teachers will post instructional resources and activities daily. Teachers will additionally schedule synchronous or asynchronous sessions with their class. Teachers will touch base individually, either through video or audio means, with each student at least every other day.
- Pre-K teachers will post instructional resources and activities regularly. Connections with families will be made on an ongoing basis to provide support and guidance as needed.
- Special services and response to intervention staff will provide individualized supplemental support to students aligned with their regular caseload and schedules.

Assessment

- MSAD 15 will eliminate spring end-of-year Northwest Educational Assessment (NWEA) assessments. The likelihood of such assessments being valid and reliable is suspect given the augmented instruction and social/emotional experiences of students this spring. Instructional time is better spent focused on student needs and growth than screening assessment with validity.
- The Maine Department of Education has received a waiver from the United States Department of Education to eliminate required annual assessment (Maine Education Assessment or MEA) under the Every Student Succeeds Act. As such, MSAD 15 will not be administering the following compulsory assessments:
 - eMPowerME mathematics and English language arts/literacy – grades 3-8
 - Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) mathematics and English language arts/literacy – third year high school students
 - Multi-State Alternative Assessment (MSAA) mathematics and English language arts/literacy – grades 3-8
 - MEA Science Augmentation – grades 3-8 and third year of high school
 - Science Alternate Assessment (SAA) – grades 3-8 and third year of high school
- MSAD 15 will be flexible in supporting students for optional standardized testing, with the current status being as follows:
 - Advanced Placement (AP) – College Board is transitioning all exams for this year which will now include only a 45 minute, online, free-response exam at home. More details will be available April 3. College Board is allowing students to cancel exams at no charge, if they choose.
 - International Baccalaureate (IB) – IB has cancelled their testing for this spring and will award diplomas or course certificates based on their coursework alone.
 - SAT – MSAD 15 will work with students that need the SAT for college admissions purposes given that the Maine SAT testing day has been canceled. At this time, College Board has closed all testing centers for March, April, and May with no plans for makeup exams. We will continue to monitor the status and work with students that need the assessment once testing resumes.

MSAD 15 will continue to work collaboratively with board, district, school, teacher, and union leadership to ensure we are supporting students and staff through this unprecedented time. As adjustments to instructional plans become necessary to best meet the needs of students, leadership will work together to adjust plans.