



Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Application

Status: **Approved**

 Sheridan School District (2705000)

School Year 2021-2022

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the district.
A notification letter will be sent to the superintendent at the email address listed above upon approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.
NOTE: The approved application must then be posted on the district website - State Required Information.

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| District: | |
| LEA #: | 2705000 |
| Superintendent: | Jerrod Williams |
| Email: | jerrodwilliams@sheridanschools.org |
| Phone: | (870) 942-3135 Ext. 222 |
| Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): | 5 Years (School year 2021-2022 to 2026-2027) |



AMI (Alternate Method of Instruction)

As per Arkansas Code Annotated Â§ 6-10-127 a district may apply for up to 10 days of AMI for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including [remote] learning, on days when the district is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as:

- contagious disease outbreak
- inclement weather
- other acts of God
- utility outage

Number of AMI days requested by the district. 10
(Please note that all AMI days utilized must be noted in eSchool. Sporting events, funerals, other school events, lack of substitutes, or lack of bus drivers do not qualify as exceptional circumstances.)

Provide a description of the AMI assignments and materials used at each school within the district to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students. Please include information if the district will utilize technology-based assignments or paper packets. (AMI packets must be available on-line or have been sent home prior to the designation of an AMI day)



In the event that off-site instruction is required due to weather or health and safety concerns, teaching will take place remotely for the district, campus, or group of students affected. The district will follow guidelines and directives from the Arkansas Department of Health and DESE to determine working locations and guidance for the use of school buildings. Teachers will use asynchronous lessons and student assignments.

The Sheridan School District believes that the assignments students are required to complete for an AMI day must be meaningful and directly related to their educational standards and instructional needs. For this reason, the district will use technology-based assignments as the primary method of providing instruction. The SSD has more than a 1:1 ratio of devices to students. Due to our increased use of digital learning across all grade levels, the assignments for AMI will be based on the students' current work. This will allow us to greatly reduce learning loss during times of unexpected school closures.

ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments will be available online through the students' existing classrooms within the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS), posted at www.Sheridanschools.org, and/or sent home ahead of time if paper packets are necessary.

- Assignments will include learning guidance for parents and students to support them in the learning process
- Reinforce or extend essential standards previously taught in the course
- Include accommodation supports for students who regularly receive those supports in the classroom
- Will provide opportunities for offline learning

COMMUNICATION

The district will communicate the move to Alternative Methods of Instruction, food service options based on weather and/or safety conditions, and opportunities for onsite access for students and staff based on weather and/or safety conditions.

Each campus will communicate specific information for accessing assignments and teacher support, including links to and times for optional virtual meetings. Teachers, including special education teachers, will be available via the LMS at designated times for live support.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Chromebooks are assigned to all students by the district.

Internet connectivity is provided to each digital learning student through on-campus connectivity, drive-up WiFi, hotspots, local business partners, churches, and restaurants.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY STUDENTS

Virtual students will receive communication regarding any adjustments



Virtual students will receive communication regarding any adjustments regarding their regularly scheduled activities from their individual course teachers, as posted in the learning management system.

Learning tasks will have offline options for students with limited or no internet access. Virtual students will continue with their learning plans on the virtual platform.

SWEEPING POWER OUTAGES:

In situations where sweeping power outages or loss of internet connectivity are being experienced, an AMI day will not be used unless students and teachers are able to continue their learning.

The Sheridan School District covers a very large portion of two counties and includes multiple power, phone, and internet providers. Because our campuses are located across such a large area, if power or internet is unavailable at their home campus teachers and staff will have access to any of the other sites where services remain functional.

We will also launch school buses that serve as a wifi hotspot to any area of our district if needed. They are able to come to these sites and download assignments as needed.

PRE K

Paper packets will be sent home for all preschool students. The packets will meet ABC guidelines.

Describe how student attendance will be determined for an approved AMI day. (All attendance should be determined and reported in eSchool within 5 days of the AMI day.) May include a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students if applicable to all students during AMI days.

Students will have three (3) days upon the return to school after an AMI day to complete all assignments and be considered “present” for the day missed. If students do not complete the assignments they will be marked as “absent”.



Describe how the district will ensure implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities on AMI days. Include how the district will involve the special education teacher in the provision of special education services during the AMI day to meet the individual needs of each student.

Program coordinators for Special Education, 504, and ESOL will support case managers and teachers in ensuring accommodations are appropriate for each student while learning at school and at home.

Services for OT/PT and Speech will be provided remotely during AMI if such services are allowed via teletherapy. Service providers will communicate links to virtual meetings with parents.

Describe how accommodations and related services will be provided.

Program coordinators for Special Education, 504, and ESOL will support case managers and teachers in ensuring accommodations are appropriate for each student while learning at school and at home.

AMI assignments provided to students who follow a specialized learning plan will follow the same accommodations applied for specific students in the regular classroom setting as outlined in their personal plan(s).

Services for OT/PT and Speech will be provided remotely during AMI if such services are allowed via teletherapy. Service providers will communicate links to virtual meetings with parents. Students who do not have internet access will be provided a dial-in phone option for teletherapy if allowable for related services. If teletherapy is not possible, parents will receive therapy-related activities to facilitate with their student at home during the period of AMI. These activities will be provided to parents ahead of time with AMI plans so that they are readily available. Service providers will check in with families via phone and/or email on AMI days to answer any questions they have concerning the AMI activities.

Please include the link (URL) to the webpage or social media where information will be posted to announce the date of the AMI day and reason for utilizing the AMI day - (this should match the AMI dates entered into eSchool). (Example: December 1 will be an AMI day due to inclement weather)

www.sheridanschools.org
<https://www.facebook.com/sheridanSD37/>

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