

## AMI Days – Frequently Asked Questions

Act 862 of 2017 allows school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction to be used on days when the district must be closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved Beebe Public Schools to use up to 5 days for the 2019-2020 school year.

### What Are AMI Days?

Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) are instructional days for students when the district is closed due to inclement weather, emergency or exceptional circumstances when the district must close. Teachers within the district will create grade appropriate lessons for each of the 5 approved AMI days. Student will complete the lesson(s) for the specified AMI day.

### What Does This Mean?

All students at Beebe Public Schools will receive an AMI packet from their school. The packet will contain instructional materials for students to work on at home during an AMI day. Some schools within the district will be utilizing technologies such as Google Classroom for students to complete their work online, however, all students will still receive a paper-based packet. Assignments for students will be labeled, 'AMI Day 1, AMI Day 2, AMI Day 3, etc. to ensure students know which assignment to be working on if an AMI day is used.

### Will Every School Participate?

All schools at Beebe Public Schools will participate in Alternative Methods of Instruction.

### When Can AMI Days Be Used?

The AMI days may only be used on days when the district must be closed due to inclement weather or exceptional/emergency circumstances. The district may use up to 3 consecutive AMI days in one week.

### How Will I Know?

If an AMI day will be used, the district will use the district phone and text message system to inform parents if school will be closed and whether an AMI day will be used. The message will contain information on which day in the packet the student should be working on. The district will continue to use social media to communicate with parents and the public.

### How Will AMI Days Impact Attendance?

Students have 2 days to complete the assignment(s) and return to their teacher in order to be counted 'present' on an AMI day. If a student does not complete the assignment(s) for the AMI day, the student will have an absence recorded for the day/class period the lesson was not completed.

### What If My Student Needs Help with an Assignment?

Students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers via email, Remind, Google Classroom, etc. to ask teachers any questions they have or if they need help understanding a lesson in their packet.

### **What If We Lose Electricity or Don't Have Internet Services?**

All students will have a paper-based copy of their AMI packet, regardless of whether the school is using technology to complete the assignments. If electricity is lost or internet is not available, students have 2 additional days after returning to school from an AMI day to complete the assignment and return to the teacher.

### **Do We Have to Use All 5 Days?**

No, the district does not have to use all 5 AMI days we were approved for. The district will continue to use the same methods in the past to determine if the district will be closed. The safety of the students, faculty, and staff are the most important component in determining whether the district will be closed.

### **What about Our Built-In Snow Days?**

Since the Alternative Methods of Instruction waiver was approved, Beebe School District will first use AMI days before using a "Snow Day" already built into the calendar. Since the AMI days count as an instructional day for students, these days will not have to be made up.

### **More Information...**

Please be on the lookout for your student to bring home their AMI packet. If you have additional questions, please contact your child's school.