



**ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

**Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan
2019 -2020 Application**

District Information

District Name	Russellville	LEA Number	5805-000
City	Russellville	County	Pope
Superintendent	Dr. Mark Gotcher	Phone	479.968.1306
Email	mark.gotcher@rsdk12.net	Cell	479.970.1082

Individual School / Campus Name	Grade Level
Russellville High School	10-12
Russellville Junior High	8-9
Russellville Middle School	6-7
Russellville Intermediate School	5
Center Valley Elementary	K-4
Crawford Elementary School	K-4
Dwight Elementary School	K-4
London Elementary School	K-4
Oakland Heights Elementary	K-4
Sequoyah Elementary	K-4

Previous Information

Total number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.

Total number of AMI days used

	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
Total number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.	1	0
Total number of AMI days used	0	0

Submission Instructions:

- E-mail completed applications to ADE.AMIapplication@arkansas.gov
- The deadline for applications to be submitted is May 1, 2020.
- Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Incomplete or partial applications will not be reviewed.
- Consult the AMI Guidance document for additional information regarding plan topics.
- Notification of status will be sent via email to the superintendent at the address provided above.
- Approval is granted for the current school year only. Applications must be renewed annually.

A. If school is canceled due to an emergency or exceptional circumstance such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or utility outage, explain the process by which the district shall determine if the school closure will be an AMI or make-up day. Ballgames or other school events, lack of substitutes, or lack of bus drivers do not qualify as an exceptional circumstance.

The Russellville School District (RSD) is requesting 10 AMI days. AMI days will only fall into the category of situations beyond the district's control (Ex. Major absenteeism due to illness/disease, inclement weather, major catastrophe of buildings/safety, and power outages rendering facilities unusable). Decisions will be made in a collaborative fashion with input taken from key stakeholders, with the knowledge that the Superintendent will make the final decision. There may be exceptions or cases in which an AMI day is not possible. If there is not time for proper preparation, the day may fall under the make-up

category. RSD School Closure Decision Chart outlines the indicators the superintendent will use to determine the use of AMI days.

The District’s plan will use the first ten days missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances as AMI days. All other missed days will be made up on any of the five inclement weather days designated in the School Calendar and approved by the School Board. See School Closure Decision Chart.

RSD School Closure Decision Chart

Indicators that determine the use of AMI Days	Indicators that determine a make-up days
Factors beyond district’s control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excessive absenteeism due to illness/ disease • inclement weather events • major catastrophe to buildings • Student/staff safety issues • Power outages rendering facilities unusable 	Factors within district’s control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of substitutes/bus drivers • State Championship game appearance or other event affecting attendance • Death of a student /staff member
Preparation or advanced notice	No advanced notice of event
Plan communication and lesson preparation in place on district website and distributed to students and parents	Plan has not been communicated effectively and lessons are not ready to be distributed to students and parents
Superintendent Discretion	Superintendent Discretion
As determined by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Ed or other state agency	As determined by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Ed or other state agency

B. 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. AMI Packets must be available on-line or have been sent home prior to designation of an AMI Day.

Russellville School District:

The Russellville School District's mission is to educate, equip, and empower all students to be productive, contributing members of their school, their community, and their world, by preparing students to be college and career ready. In times of exceptional or emergency circumstances, alternative methods of instruction will maximize safety and learning of scholars while not disrupting the learning process.

The Russellville School District believes that learning can take place anytime, anywhere. The Russellville School District will utilize a variety of alternative methods to provide student instruction on days designated as alternative methods of instruction days (AMI days), including lessons that are innovative engaging assignments for students and families whenever possible. Teachers will ensure assignments are differentiated based on student grade level, instructional needs, and educational plans.

Even though the method of delivery may vary, rigor and relevance will NOT. ALL activities will protect the integrity of the Arkansas State Standards and support ongoing instruction in the regular classroom. Students will work on material based on the essential learning standards for their grade level. Essential learning standards are the identified knowledge, skills, and dispositions all students must acquire as a result of a class; they are what the students must know to be proficient. To ensure equitable access to technology and resources for ALL students, teachers that prepare technology-based lesson plans will also prepare them as text-based.

RSD PreK-12th staff will be available during school hours with an hour lunch break, to assist students with questions through phone, email, Google Classroom, or other mode of communication.

Grades K-4:

- All required classes will prepare AMI learning tasks/packets, available online and/or sent home prior to the AMI days.
- Assignments will be submitted to their homeroom teacher no later than the first day school resumes.
- All AMI assignments will be designed to help build essential skills and deepen understanding reflecting state standards and curriculum goals.
- AMI assignments must require only basic resources readily available at home.
- Teachers will be available from 8:00 - 11:00 and 12:00 - 3:00

Grades 5-12:

- All core and non-core classes will prepare AMI learning tasks/packets, available online or sent home prior to the AMI days.
- All AMI lesson plans for core courses will be submitted to the building administration for his/her approval to ensure the integrity of rigor and relevance are maintained.
- Teachers may utilize technology to communicate with students.
- Teachers may send out work also aligned to ACT Aspire/AP, to help prepare students for upcoming standardized testing, as to not lose instructional time.
- 10-12th grade students are issued 1:1 laptops. Assignments are on Google Classroom, iLearn, or other learning management systems, which facilitates communication between the teachers and students.

C. Describe how student attendance will be determined for an approved AMI day.

Attendance for an approved AMI day will be determined by the amount of work completed on each AMI day. Assignments may be submitted electronically prior to returning to school or are due the day students physically return to school. Failure to submit assignments will result in the student(s) being considered absent for the AMI day.

D. Describe how the district will ensure implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities on AMI days.

Students with disabilities who receive instruction in general education classes under indirect services will receive and complete the same AMI packets as their non-disabled peers with the accommodations written on individual IEPs. Special Education teachers assigned to Indirect students will check on AMI completion during the required weekly Indirect progress review.

Students with disabilities who receive services in a resource room or a self-contained classroom for content area instruction (i.e. Math, Literacy, Science, and Social Studies) will receive AMI Packets from their special education teachers. Packets will be based on individual IEPs and goals contained within them.

- The packets will be returned and graded by each special education instructor.
- Skills mastered prior to school closing will be evaluated through informal assessment(s) by a special education teacher among return to school.
- Assignments will be designed to reflect supports given to students in the classroom. Assignments for students receiving accommodations or modifications will reflect these supports as closely as possible. If applicable, oral directions will be provided in a recorded message through a Google Application. Student work will be used to determine absenteeism; however, special education teachers will make this determination based on the individual student and their IEP accommodations/modifications such as, but not limited to, extended time.

All Special Education teaching staff will be accessible during AMI days to allow parents the ability to reach out to ask questions regarding the AMI assignments through email or other digital means.

Students with disabilities who receive speech language therapy will receive AMI packets from the therapist who provides therapy. Activities provided are open-ended and can be customized for specific skills such as auditory processing, fluency, sequencing, and answering WH questions.

Students with disabilities who receive related services (Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical therapy) will receive AMI packets from the therapist who provides therapy. Therapy providers will complete an informal assessment upon a student's return to school after AMI day(s) to monitor loss of mastered skills along with checking packets completed during the school closure.

- The therapist will provide compensatory therapy when students show regression in skills.
- The AMI process for students with disabilities will be shared and discussed with parents during Annual Review Conferences each school year.

E. Describe how the district will communicate with parents and students the purpose and expectations for an AMI day. Please include the link to the website or social media where the information will be posted.

The use of AMI, for all grade levels including pre-kindergarten, will provide students continuous support and instruction of skills needed to complete the curriculum requirements that are tested for each grade level.

The district's purpose is to provide a safe learning environment while continuing seamless, relevant assignments to optimize valuable instructional time.

In the event of inclement weather, the school closure / AMI day will be announced on local media outlet stations, as well as, through social media including Facebook, Russellville School District website, Twitter, and the Remind and Thrillshare services.

Administrators and teachers will emphasize that the success of the AMI program depends on active support from the students and parents, and if AMI days are not successful, the alternative is to return to adding make-up days to the end of the school year.

The district will clearly communicate the purpose and expectations to all stakeholders via Remind, Thrillshare, Twitter, Facebook at Russellville Schools, and our school website <http://rsdk12.net>.