



ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Julie G. Fowler, Superintendent

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Alternate learning days provide schools and districts an opportunity to meet instructional time requirements that are missed due to unusual disruptions to the normal school calendar. Abbeville County School District will use alternate learning days for the unusual disruptions to the regular school schedule due to the COVID-19 health emergency that may result in school closures. We have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help parents, students, and teachers begin to prepare.

What is an alternate learning day?

Alternate learning is the use of at-home resources and those sent home from schools to enable students to learn anytime and anywhere. We will use alternate learning days when school is closed due to a disruption of normal activities (i.e. weather, power-outage). On alternate learning days, students do not report to school, but will complete classroom activities using the resources provided by the school. We will use alternate learning days as is appropriate and will decide if we use consecutive days on a case-by-case basis.

How and when will students and parents know if an alternate learning day will take place?

We will communicate school cancellations and the announcement of an alternate learning day through phone calls, district/school websites, social media (Facebook and Twitter), and local media.

How will students be informed about assignments during an alternate learning day?

When an alternate learning day looks likely, and where possible, activities will be sent home. If possible, instructional assignments will be sent home with students the day before a school closure is announced. Pre-K, first, and second grade teachers will work to provide books for students to use when completing reading activities and return when school resumes. Students in grades 3-8 may use a fiction book, aligned to their reading level, checked out from their classroom or the school library. Students should complete one Reading, Math, and Social Studies or Science assignment each day. Students in grades 9-12 will receive work plan packets from their teachers and should complete work as directed.

What if my student needs help with their assignments on an alternate learning day?

The alternate learning packets were designed to provide meaningful learning activities related to things students have studied at school and some review of instructional concepts that they have already learned this year. Your student will need guidance at home to complete the activities. Other than notebook paper, pencils, and reading books, all materials your student needs to complete the work are included in the packet.

When will assignments be due?

All work will need to be submitted within three days of returning to school after the last alternate learning day. Failure to complete this work will be graded in accordance with the teacher's grading policy.

How does alternate learning make up for the amount of instructional time students miss?

Assignments should take a reasonable amount of time to complete when on task. We are required to provide work for an amount of time to be exchanged for time students would have been in the classroom. All students will initially be counted as present on the alternate learning day. However, if the assigned work is not completed and submitted within the 3-day grace period, the student must be coded as absent on the day that school was cancelled.

What about my child who receives supplemental support from Special Education (resource, speech, OT, PT, vision, hearing) or who is in a preschool disabilities class or a special education class which focuses on functional or life skills?

Students who meet these criteria will complete an alternate learning packet of relevant skill work which aligns with their IEP goals. These students will need support to complete their work.

Are there additional resources my child can access through technology?

Yes, the school will provide you with information about websites and apps that have educational resources your student can access while at home. These supplemental activities are strongly encouraged.

If we do not have adequate wireless internet connectivity in our home, are there any options for my child?

Yes, WCTel, our local communications provider, has agreed to establish mobile hotspots in our county to help students access the internet. These will be positioned outside community buildings and allow internet connection from the vehicle. More information about the exact locations will be made available soon.

We will use the automated messaging system and our district and school websites to communicate updated information to parents. Parents may email their child's teacher regarding questions about the assignments or activities.

As this is our first time designing an alternate learning experience for our students, we recognize it will not be without challenge. Our desire is to provide students with an instructional experience that meets their learning needs, but can be done at home rather than in the classroom. We appreciate your cooperation, patience, and support during this time as we work together to make this a meaningful learning experience for every student in our district.

With warmest regards,
Julie G. Fowler,
Superintendent