

Southern Plains Education Cooperative Flexible Learning Day Plan

What is Flexible Learning?	Flexible Learning involves digital or physical teacher-prepared lessons that students do when away from the physical school building. On days school is closed due to inclement weather, developmentally appropriate resources will be used to communicate and engage in learning experiences related to current classroom curriculum goals and student needs.
What is the Goal of Flexible Learning?	To minimize the disruption to academic progress caused by emergency school closures by making these days as educationally productive and engaging as possible. Arise Academy understands that students and families will likely need flexibility on these days. We know that students may not have access to the internet or they may have other responsibilities at home that must also be met. School staff are willing and able to be flexible with students when such needs are communicated.
General Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As indicated by Minnesota Statute § 120A.414, no more than five (5) days will be used as Flexible Learning Days per academic calendar year. ● When possible, no more than two (2) Flexible Learning Days will be used consecutively. ● Flexible Learning Days will only be used when school is closed for the day due to inclement weather. ● Flexible Learning Days are considered school days and will be included as hours of instruction for the school year.
Plan Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Flexible Learning Plan will be communicated with families at the beginning of each school year and as students newly enroll in the school. This communication will be done via letter home in addition to via email. ● The Flexible Learning Plan will be posted on the school's website and updated annually as necessary. ● Not all school closures due to inclement weather will be Flexible Learning Days. A Flexible Learning Day will only be used if absolutely necessary due to multiple school closures due to weather. If school is canceled AND a Flexible Learning Day is declared; students, families, and teachers will receive an announcement through the school messaging system. ● Students and families will be informed of basic expectations prior to any Flexible Learning Days.
Day of Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a Flexible Learning Day is declared, students and families will be given a minimum of two (2) hours notice that students are expected to engage in Flexible Learning Day activities. ● Students and families will be notified through the school's messaging system as requested by the families (phone call, text, email, or combination). ● Specific instructions, if applicable, will be sent via email (if appropriate) to students through their school email and families to the email(s) specified upon enrollment. Accommodations for communication will be

	<p>made as necessary and established through a student's Individual Education Program Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or other plan as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff will be available to students and families between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The default method of communication will be virtual, but other agreed upon ways to communicate will be established if necessary.
Flexible Learning Day Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 9:00 a.m. or earlier, students and families will be reminded of the Flexible Learning Day expectations and activities. • Students have the entire day to complete the assigned activities, but school staff will not be available after 3:30 p.m. • Students or families should and are encouraged to contact their teachers with any questions or concerns regarding the day's work. This contact can be done in any method mutually agreed upon, but email addresses and phone numbers will be posted and available through the Arise Academy website and sent via email as a reminder. • On Flexible Learning Days, teachers will check school email regularly and will be available to students and families between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. School staff will make every effort to respond to questions or concerns within an hour of contact. Any contact made after 3:30 p.m. will be returned the following day. • All student accommodations as outlined in an Individual Education Program (IEP) Plan, Section 504 Plan, or other plan will be followed.
School Staff Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers are expected to plan content appropriate for students to complete at home in a format appropriate for the student. This content will include multiple options and choices for students who have Internet access as well as those without Internet access. • When it is necessary and/or appropriate for a student to complete content through a digital format, teachers will utilize Google Classroom or Edmentum. • When it is not necessary and/or appropriate for a student to complete content through a digital format, teachers will ensure students have access to the content in a format that meets the student's needs. • All student accommodations as outlined in an Individual Education Program (IEP) Plan, Section 504 Plan, or other plan will be followed. • Teachers and other school staff will communicate Flexible Learning Day expectations and practice implementation with students in advance of the need for a Flexible Learning Day. • School staff will monitor their email or other communication methods between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. with an effort to respond to questions or concerns within an hour of contact. Any contact made after 3:30 p.m. will be returned the following day. • Any planned meetings for the day will be conducted virtually if appropriate.
Student Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a minimum of one (1) assignment/activity per assigned class as directed by school staff. • Communicate questions or concerns to school staff via email or other method as previously discussed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific instructions and information will be provided to students prior to a Flexible Learning Day and via student email or other communication method the day of a Flexible Learning Day. More detailed information will be provided by the student's classroom teacher(s) or case manager.
Parent/Guardian Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your email or other communication methods for information regarding the Flexible Learning Day.• Assist or support your student as needed and appropriate on a Flexible Learning Day.• Communicate questions or concerns to school staff via email or other method as previously discussed.