



Freeport School District 145

Remote Learning by Choice

A Guiding Document for Students and Parents



Remote Learning by Choice

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and assist in the planning and delivery of instruction in the Remote Learning by Choice delivery model. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, families are challenged with weighing options that only provide less than ideal solutions. Along with the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the goal of the Freeport School District is to have our students receive in-person learning as often and as safely possible. As a district, we also realize that specific student or family situations may not allow the safe return to in-person learning. So we have provided the Remote Learning by Choice option for our students who are unable to attend school in-person and must have a fully-remote option.

We recognize the difficult decisions our families are making and stand by our moral imperative to be *All In for All Kids*. We believe that our students deserve a full year of new learning and that the goal of all instruction is to ensure each student learns grade-level content and is ready to progress to the next grade. We strive to provide continuity of learning for all of our students regardless if they are learning from home, in person, or in a blended model.

ISBE's Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations

On July 23, 2020, the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) released their recommendations for remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Freeport School District's plan for Remote Learning by Choice aligns with the recommendations made by ISBE.



Key Terms

- **Assessment:** what teachers do to collect evidence about student learning to help provide them with feedback and to inform further teaching and learning
- **Asynchronous learning:** a learning event in which a group of students are engaging in learning at different times (can be done both in-person and remotely)
- **Blended Learning:** instruction that occurs both in-person and remotely
- **eLearning:** Plans for *short-term* school closures (e.g. snow days) that are submitted & approved by the ISBE.



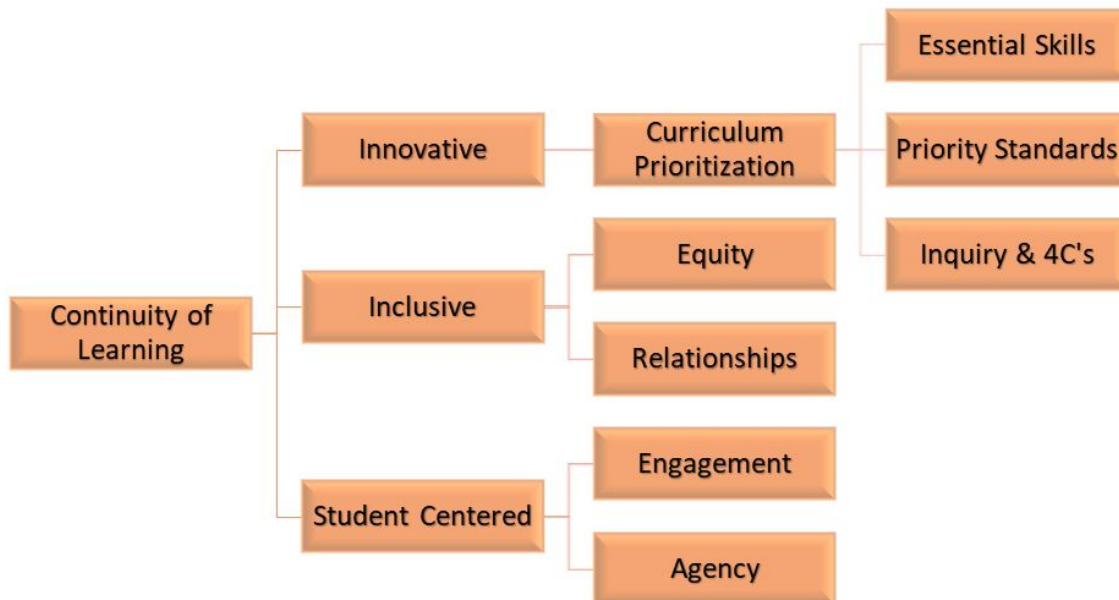
- **Grading:** the evaluation of student of student work and academic performance that is reported to families and caregivers

Key Terms (Con't.)

- **In-Person Learning:** learning that occurs when a teacher and student are in the same physical space
- **Remote Learning:** learning that occurs when students and teachers are separated physically
- **Remote Learning by Choice:** FSD145 students who parents/guardians have elected to have their student(s) participate in Remote Learning by Choice learning at a time when in-person learning is being offered
- **Synchronous learning:** a learning event in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time (can be done both in-person and remotely)
- **Synchronous virtual classroom:** a shared learning environment (e.g. Zoom) in which the teacher is teaching in realtime to students - some of whom are learning in-person and some of whom are learning remotely

Framework for Learning

The guiding principle for the Framework of Learning during the 2020-2021 school year is **Continuity of Learning**. As a district, we hold to the three tenets of our mission to provide innovative, inclusive and student-centered instruction.





General Expectations for Remote Learning by Choice

Families elect to have students engage in remote only instruction. Those choosing this option will be committing to Remote Learning by Choice for the entirety of the first semester. Additional information will be provided prior to the end of the semester for those seeking to switch to or from Remote Learning by Choice.



The following table outlines the general expectations and schedule for more information about what this looks like for all involved.

Teachers will...	Students will...	Caregivers will...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a minimum of 5 clock hours of instruction and assignments per day (2.5 for half-day PK). • Provide a recommended 2.5 hours of synchronous learning with real-time instruction, feedback and interaction. • Create learning experiences and assign work that is essential to student understanding of the subject(s) • Be available for student questions • Provide feedback to students on their progress • Contact parents/guardians to address a concern • Request the assistance of other staff to address continued concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a minimum of 5 clock hours of instruction and assignments per day (2.5 for half-day PK) • Engage in approximately 2.5 hours of synchronous learning • Complete and submit all work assigned by teachers • Engage in class activities and discussions. • Follow the set schedule for accessing the learning experiences. • Check-in with teachers • Reach out to teachers and other staff with questions • Advocate for their needs both academically and socially and emotionally. • Take care to get enough rest and commit to self care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish expectations that students will spend a minimum of 5 clock hours of instruction and assignments per day (2.5 for half-day PK). • Ensure internet access that allows for live streaming and video conferencing. • Monitor student work completion and attendance • Encourage their child to complete assigned work and to follow the schedule of learning activities. • Communicate concerns to teachers and/or related service or support staff • Reserve a space for students to complete remote learning work.



FSD145
Freeport School District

Surviving to Thriving



IN-PERSON LEARNING

*with all proper health
protocols in place*

OR



REMOTE LEARNING

by choice



Chromebooks stay at school for students grades K-4, Chromebooks sent home for students in grades 5-12



Chromebooks sent home for K-12, families commit to having reliable internet



Regular school day for grades K-6, A/B schedule for grades 7-9



Live and self-paced instruction (5 hour minimum)



Regular attendance, grading practices and report cards



Regular attendance, grading practices and report cards



A/B schedules at FHS & FMS allow for social distancing as much as possible



Grade-level or course-level classes formed district-wide



MAP testing for students in grades K-10



MAP testing for students in grades K-10



Opportunity to switch to Remote Learning by Choice second semester



Opportunity to return to in-person learning during second semester



Remote Learning by Choice Considerations

From last spring, you have probably experienced assignments and various forms of content delivery such as assignments, videos, online books, and projects. Students probably also may have also engaged in “live” sessions with their teacher(s). These “live” sessions, or synchronous learning, will be a part of the Remote Learning by Choice this fall. The amount of time spent “live” with a teacher will look different for remote learners than in-person or blended learners. The needs of remote learners are different and the ways they interact with their teachers will be different.

Families who have selected Remote Learning by Choice, are responsible for ensuring that the internet is available at all times for their student(s). To help with this necessity, Freeport School District has partnered with Comcast to assist qualifying families with getting connected to the Internet. In order to take advantage of the Sponsored Internet Agreement with Comcast, you will need a Promo Code from the school district. You may receive your code by contacting the Freeport School District Technology Department at (815) 232-0569.

Remote Learning by Choice teachers will not be assigned to their classes until the Remote Learning by Choice student enrollment has been finalized.

The guidelines included in this document may change slightly to accommodate the workforce assigned to these students.

Guidance on use of Synchronous Instructional Techniques

Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Each student will be given a Chromebook for Remote Learning by Choice● Math and ELA content will be prioritized● Daily use of synchronous sessions● 15-20 minute intervals (min/subject area)
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Each student will be given a Chromebook for Remote Learning by Choice● Daily use of synchronous sessions● 20-30 min intervals● Remote instruction & assignments (5 hours/day)● Office hours
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● There may be multiple remote learning teachers who support students in a given class. For example, one teacher may provide content through videos and/or live streaming, while another provides support through office hours.● Daily use of synchronous sessions● 20-30 min intervals● Remote instruction & assignments (5 hours/day);● Office hours



Guidance on use of Video Conferencing

Synchronous remote instruction will have groups of students participate in various learning activities such as discussions, lectures, demonstrations, morning meetings, etc. Remote Learning teachers will use Zoom to hold video conferences with students. The following are some guidelines and suggestions for students who are engaging in video conferencing:

Test Your Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Test your microphone (make sure to “allow” the use of the camera in the case of a request)● Test your video camera (make sure to “allow” the use of the camera in the case of a request)● If using Chrome, and you hit “block” accidentally, right-click on the icon at the very beginning of the URL address bar. Adjust permissions as needed.
Follow your teacher’s protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● For muting video/microphone, participation, answering questions, using the chat, etc● If an agenda is provided, have that available during the session. This agenda may include links to other applications for use during the session.
Minimize distractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Find a quiet space.● Mute all other devices.● Inform others in your household that you will be participating in a video call.● Make sure there is lighting on your face, not behind you. (Don’t be a shadow.)● Use headphones and a microphone if you have them. These allow for clearer audio for all.● Join the video call from one device only to avoid audio feedback.● Your backdrop should be as simple as possible.● Remove any items from view that would not be school appropriate.● Make sure all clothing that can be seen is simple and appropriate for the purpose of the call.
Be a POSITIVE contributor / Digital Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Encourage others during the session.● Make contributions related to the topic.● Participate in activities● Help minimize distractions by maintaining eye contact, participating and engaging in the topic, and limiting non-related activities during the call.● Make eye contact with the camera.

Remote Learning by Choice Schedules



The State Board of Education has issued guidance that requires the Remote Learning Learning by Choice plan to plan for 5 clock hours of instruction and assignments daily. While the exact Remote Learning schedules will depend on sectioning and staffing, the schedules below may give some general outline of what a student's day would look like.

Schedules provide for Core Instruction; core courses are English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies. At the high school level, core may also include graduation requirements. Each schedule will also include physical education, a requirement in the State of Illinois.

***Elementary Schedule EXAMPLE**

*Actual Remote Learning schedules will depend on sectioning and staffing and will vary by building. The following schedule is intended to serve only as an EXAMPLE of what a student's day MAY look like.

Time	Curricular Focus	Method	Facilitator of Learning
9:35-10:00	SEL Standards	Synchronous virtual classroom via Zoom	Classroom teacher
10:00-10:15	Reading Standards	Synchronous virtual classroom via Zoom	Classroom teacher
10:15-10:45	Reading Skills	Freckle ELA	Student/Parent
10:45-11:00	Reading Application	Independent Reading	Student/Parent
11:00-11:15	Break		
11:15-11:45	Reading Skills	Zoom Meeting	Tutor
11:45-12:30	Lunch/Play/Break		
12:30-1:00	Math Standards	Synchronous virtual classroom via Zoom	Classroom teacher
1:00-1:30	Math Skills	Freckle Math	Student/Parent
1:30-2:00	Math Skills	Zoom Meeting	Tutor
2:00-2:15	Break		
2:15-2:45	Science/ Social Studies	Zoom Meeting	Tutor
2:45-3:00	Break		
3:00-3:55	Independent Work/Assignments	Independent	Student/Parent



Students in grades 5-6 will receive instruction in Social Emotional Learning (SEL), math, ELA, science, and social studies. Students will also engage in PE and some predetermined elective classes as staffing allows.

5-6 Time Allocation EXAMPLE

*Actual Remote Learning time allocations will depend on sectioning and staffing. The following example is intended to serve only as an EXAMPLE of what a student's day MAY look like.

Event	Minutes	Content
SEL Lesson	30 Minutes	Second Step and RethinkEd - Developing Belonging and Self- Awareness/ Self-Regulation
ELA	50 Minutes	Focus on Reading Fluency and Comprehension
Math	50 Minutes	Focus on attention to detail and mathematical mindsets
Elective	50 Minutes	Rotating Schedule with PE
Science	50 Minutes	Focus on Data Analysis and Informative Writing _ NGSS
SS	50 Minutes	Focus on Critical thinking and Argumentative Writing
PE	40 Minutes	Rotating Schedule with PE



Students in grades 7-8 will receive instruction in Social Emotional Learning (SEL), math, ELA, science, and social studies. Students will also engage in PE and some predetermined elective classes as staffing allows.

7-8 Time Allocation EXAMPLE

*Actual Remote Learning time allocations will depend on sectioning and staffing. The following example is intended to serve only as an EXAMPLE of what a student's day MAY look like.

Event	Minutes	Content
SEL Lesson	30 Minutes	Second Step and RethinkEd - Developing Belonging and Self-Awareness/ Self-Regulation
ELA	50 Minutes	Focus on Reading Fluency and Comprehension
Math	50 Minutes	Focus on attention to detail and mathematical mindsets
Elective	50 Minutes	Rotating Schedule with PE
Science	50 Minutes	Focus on Data Analysis and Informative Writing _ NGSS
SS	50 Minutes	Focus on Critical thinking and Argumentative Writing
PE	40 Minutes	Rotating Schedule with PE

High School

Students at Freeport High School who elect to do the Remote Learning by Choice option will follow the A/B schedule similar to the students who are engaging in blended learning. Student schedules will be assigned to them by the counseling office. Additional office hours may be offered to support students learning in a remote location.

Early Childhood (Preschool)

The Early Childhood program presents unique opportunities for staff and families to work together on behalf of our youngest students. Varied needs of 3-5 year olds do not lend themselves to remote learning models that are seen in older grades. Teachers and related service providers will schedule a time to meet individually with students and families to understand learner preferences, past learning experiences, and family life. This will inform instructional choices, forums on feedback, and options for supporting the students.

Due to grant requirements in preschool for all classrooms, teams may conduct home visits with social distancing procedures in place. Families will be given alternatives to a home visit if they are uncomfortable with the standard social distancing procedure.