Even When School is Cancelled, Personalized Learning Never Stops: One State’s Story

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Welcome!
Please sit at one of the eight school district tables.
Barren County
Location: south central KY
District size: 4,768
F/R Lunch Rate: 58%
Minority Population: 7%

Corbin Independent
Location: southeast KY
District size: 2,883
F/R Lunch Rate: 58%
Minority Population: 4%

Graves County
Location: far southwest KY
District size: 4,276
F/R Lunch Rate: 62%
Minority Population: 11%

Harlan County
Location: southeast KY
District size: 3,961
F/R Lunch Rate: 83%
Minority Population: 4%

Jessamine County
Location: central KY
District size: 7,849
F/R Lunch Rate: 55%
Minority Population: 16%

Lawrence County
Location: east KY
District size: 2,465
F/R Lunch Rate: 71%
Minority Population: 3%

Todd County
Location: southwest KY
District size: 1,918
F/R Lunch Rate: 62%
Minority Population: 21%

State average
F/R lunch rate: 71%
State average student minority population: 22%
Snow Day Activity #1

- How do school cancellations affect your school district?

- Write one implication per Post-It note and place on district paper on the wall.
Average Number of Snow Days per School District 2009-2015
Problem:
Students were missing too much snow due to school cancellations

• Loss of instructional time
• Learning loss
• Re-teaching
• No food for students
• Longer school year (concentration problems, vacations)

• Everyone held accountable to the same state standardized test
Solution: The Non-Traditional Instruction Program

- School districts can continue instruction when school is cancelled
- Reduce learning loss, reduce re-teaching
- Have fewer make-up days at the end of the school year
“May grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student attendance days for school districts that have an alternative instruction plan approved....”

“Including virtual learning, on days when the school district is closed for health or safety reasons, on nontraditional days, or on nontraditional time....”

“The district’s plan shall demonstrate how teaching and learning in the district will not be negatively impacted....”
Snow Day Activity #2

- When can NTI day be used? When can it not be used?

- As a group, determine what each card is describing and place in a “can be used” or a “can’t be used” pile.
Snow Day Activity

Can Be Used

- Snow, ice, cold temperatures
- Illness
- No power/heat/water
- Flooding
- Wildfire
- Bomb threat
- Expressed concern from safety personnel
- Special election

Can’t Be Used

- Sporting events
- Funerals
- Fairs, festivals
- One school closed
- Maintenance
- Teacher PD days
- A day that is pre-planned or when staff is not available.
A Closer Look at the Program

Process:
- Districts apply for the program, implement instruction, submit documentation.
- Districts can implement non-traditional instruction up to 10 times a year.

An NTI day counts as an instructional day in the school calendar and a contractual work day for certified staff.
Program Data

2014-2015
- 13 school districts
- 91% student participation
- 98% teacher participation

2015-2016
- 44 school districts
- 94% student participation
- 99% teacher participation

2016-2017
- 72 school districts
- 94% student participation
- 99% teacher participation
Who is participating?

Districts Participating in the 2016-2017 Non-Traditional Instruction Program
Where Personalized Approaches Come In

In their application, districts address how they will continue instruction for *all* students.

- Students with disabilities
- Gifted students
- English language learners
- Students without a device or the Internet
Where Personalized Approaches Come In

School districts determine what works best for their students and teachers

Instruction
- Digitally-based *(Google Classroom, Edgenuity, etc.)*
  - LMS, practice programs
  - Short course, or “intersession” type course
- Long term project
- Paper-based
- General or specific focus
Where Personalized Approaches Come In

▶ Certified staff is required to work
  ● District determine location and duties
    ✓ Virtual class facilitation
    ✓ Student check-ins
    ✓ Lesson planning
    ✓ PLCs
    ✓ Synchronous sessions
    ✓ Special projects

▶ It is a district decision if classified staff is working
Snow Day Activity #3

- As a group, brainstorm benefits of continuing instruction on days when school is cancelled according to the role at the bottom of your paper. Then create a character and write the benefits in speech bubbles around the character.
Reported Benefits of the Program

Administrators

- Teachers implementing new methods of instruction
- Begin discussion about anytime/anywhere learning for non-NTI days

Teachers

- Continuation of instruction
- Less time re-teaching content and routines
- Incorporation of lessons that don’t fit into regular time/schedule
- Excited, involved students
Reported Benefits of the Program

Students
- Interesting lessons, enjoy using devices
- Get out of school sooner

Parents
- Kids have something to do on snow days
- Able to see what students are doing in class
- Participate in lessons, education
- Plan summer vacations with more security
Three Most Frequently Asked Questions
Question #1: How do students without internet access or a device at home participation in Non-Traditional Instruction?

88% of Kentucky students have internet access at home.

Snow Day Activity #4

▶ As a group, brainstorm how school districts could include students who don’t have a device or the internet in the day’s instruction.

▶ Record ideas on “computer paper” on your table.
Answer:

School districts have become creative about providing access for those students:

- Project-based work
- Pre-load content onto device or jump drive
- Park a Wi-Fi bus in the community
- Internet “switch” than can be activated at the district
- Opening school buildings for computer lab use
- Providing computer lab time before or after school when school resumes
- Alternate assignments/paper packets
Question #2:

How can districts meet Individual Education Plan (IEP) accommodations for special education students or Program Service Plans (PSP) for gifted and talented and ELL students?
Answer:

School districts can personalize instruction based on the accommodation:

- General education/special education teachers adjust lessons for accommodations
- Special education teachers create lessons
- Send home materials/manipulatives
- Special education teachers call students and work with them over the phone
- Skype/Facetime/Google Hangout session with students (speech services, physical therapy)
Question #3:

Is there a minimum level of participation required in order for the NTI day to qualify as an instructional day?
Answer: No

There is no set percentage of student or teacher participation required in order to qualify as an instructional day. We generally see participation rates in the high 80s- low 90s for students and high 90s for teachers.

In some cases, we see higher participation rates on a district’s NTI days than their average daily attendance (ADA).
Questions?

Kentucky Department of Education
Non-Traditional Instruction Program Webpage

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