



Distance Learning Plan FAQs

Updated 4.8.20

Frequently Asked Questions

*Fargo Public Schools will begin distance learning with students due to COVID-19 on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**. Have questions? Please see the frequently asked questions below for additional information on our plan. Additional questions can be submitted using the form at [this link](#).*

I had heard that distance learning would begin on March 30. Could I get clarification on which day school will start?

The date change was to accommodate all support services providers to align their support and customize plans for students. A teacher can start on March 30 reviewing past materials, contacting families, and practicing how to use digital tools. New content will begin on April 1.

Is it mandatory to use the camera during online classes?

The camera does NOT need to be active during class. All classes will start with the cameras off. Having cameras off when possible also saves internet bandwidth during the class session.

What does a family need at home to allow their children to participate in distance learning?

In grades K-5, if you have internet access and any device that can go onto the internet and play a video, you have everything you need and you do not need the school to supply you with a device. If you cannot get internet at your home, iPads being made available have the K-5 instructional videos loaded on them, so they would work even without internet to give your child the same resources everyone else is using. In middle and high school, internet access and the child's district-issued personal learning device is all that is needed.

Can I get access to online learning websites for my elementary student?

Yes. Go to your school's website, click on the green bar labeled [ELEMENTARY HOME LEARNING](#). This link will give you multiple resources and websites to use, and that coincide with the Learning Boards.

Will my elementary child receive a device if we do not have one at home?

Classroom teachers will call all families the week of March 23 to determine each family's needs. By calling all elementary families, we will generate a list of students who need a device. One device per family will be provided the week of March 30, if needed, through two methods: curbside pick-up or bus drop-off locations. In special cases, a home drop-off would occur. The elementary distance learning plan does not require internet service. If a family does not have a device or internet, a device with the content downloaded on it will be provided. Each device will include instructions on how to view the instructional videos.

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I don't have internet right now. What should I do?

Midco is an internet service provider in the Fargo area that is offering free internet access for the rest of the school year to Fargo families who currently do not have internet at home. You can request this service by calling 1-833-338-4638 as soon as possible. When someone answers the call, tell the person you have a special offer code, and read the code: **MIBEDU20** to them. The Midco representative on the phone will then help you get started with free Midco service. While Midco is able to serve almost all of Fargo, it is possible that you may live at an address that Midco says it cannot service. If Midco tells you they cannot service your address, please call your school principal to let the principal know and we will work with you to find an alternative. Our goal is to get students internet access for the school year at their primary residence.

I want to ensure that the plan is flexible for parents who are working from home. My husband and I are both still working full time and thus need the plans to be easy enough for the kids to mostly complete while working on their own.

Fargo Public Schools is working to meet the educational needs of our students during this time of school closure. Elementary staff has developed activities for students to continue their learning at home. These activities and instructional videos are for students to complete independently. With Kindergarten and 1st grade students, it may be necessary to read directions with them. Students should not need additional materials for these activities. The classroom teacher will be making family contact every three days to provide instruction and check on progress. Families can also call an academic support line during regular school hours for help from a teacher.

What amount of time should my elementary children be working on their school assignments?

It is recommended to establish daily routines for engaging in learning experiences (samples provided in the mailed packet). Elementary students should be encouraged to work on their Learning Boards daily. FPS understands that each family will navigate when their students are completing their Learning Boards at home. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or call the academic support line anytime they experience difficulty in completing an activity on a Learning Board.

- For Kindergarten, students will be engaged for about 45 minutes.
- For Grades 1-2, students will be engaged for about 60 minutes.
- For Grades 3-4, students will be engaged for about 70 minutes.
- For Grades 5, students will be engaged for approximately about 100 minutes.

If you currently have a student receiving special education services, you can expect your case manager to contact you shortly to create a contingency plan.

When will school resume?

We do not know when Fargo Public Schools will re-open for students. ND Governor Doug Burgum signed an executive order that closed schools for students indefinitely. At this point, the answer to questions of whether or not schools are closed the rest of the year, is “we don’t know.” As soon as we have more information about when schools will be open again, it will be communicated to families.

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Will we need to make up school days missed during summer break?

Since Fargo Public School's Distance Learning plan was approved by the state, FPS will NOT have to extend the school year into June.

What will happen for students that receive special education services (i.e. speech therapy)?

Special education case managers will contact parents in the near future to convey distance learning plans for your student. As FPS implements the distance learning plan, your child's case manager will create a proposed Individualized Contingency Plan to address your child's appropriate education in this very unique educational situation.

We were to have an IEP meeting for our child soon. When will that happen?

During this unique learning time, special education teams will attempt to hold annual IEP meetings by phone or virtual conferences as appropriate and possible. Please contact our Special Services Office at 701-446-1012 or email lamonts@fargo.k12.nd.us with any specific questions or needs.

How do we follow the ABCDEF class schedule days for middle school during distance learning?

The calendar with the A-F designation will not be used during distance learning; however, an A/B rotation will be used. Students will not meet for Advisory or Study Hall.

The A/B rotation is as follows:

A Day classes meet the first 20 minutes of the designated periods.

B Day classes meet the last 20 minutes of the designated periods.

A- First 20 minutes

B- Last 20 minutes

Mon/Wed	Class Times	Tue/TR
1A	8:30-8:50	2A
1B	8:55-9:15	2B
3A	9:30-9:50	4A
3B	9:55-10:15	4B
5A	10:30-10:50	6A
5B	10:55-11:15	6B
7A	11:30-11:50	8A
7B	11:55-12:15	8B

A Days – first 20 minutes of class (8:30-8:50, 9:30-9:50, 10:30-10:50, 11:30-11:50)

B Days – last 20 minutes of class (8:55-9:15, 9:55-10:15, 10:55-11:15, 11:55-12:15)

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Will April 10 be considered a "day off" for Easter weekend and April 13 still be considered a makeup day?

April 10 is a No School day in the FPS school calendar. Distance learning will not occur on April 10. All FPS staff members are also off on that day due to the holiday; teachers will not have office hours on that day. April 13 will be used as a make-up day/instruction day due to a previous snow day; distance learning will occur on April 13.

I'm confused on how the elementary Learning Boards are labeled. What week should my child be completing each board?

School Days	Number of Days	Week	Learning Board
April 1-3	3	1	1*
April 6-9	4	2	2*
April 13-17	5	3	3
April 20-24	5	4	4
April 27-April 30	4	5	5*
May 4-8	5	6	6
May 11-15	5	7	7
May 18-22	5	8	8
May 26-28	3	9	9*

*Weeks with less than five days (blackout may not be possible)

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Will the home learning boards be adjusted in the following weeks?

Phase	School Dates	Learning Board/Week	Focus
Phase 1	April 1-3	1*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Learning Boards implemented → Work with families on accessing technology
Phase 1	April 6-9	2*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators work to implement the Fargo Public Schools Distance Learning Plan. • Special Education, Title, EL and G/T services will contact families to explain how the services will be delivered through distance learning beginning no later than April 15. • Multiple digital resources are available for students to self-select for additional practice. • Teachers will review and organize digital activities to reinforce or differentiate a learning concept in phases 2 & 3. 			
Phase 2	April 13-17	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continue Learning Boards → Support services implemented
Phase 2	April 20-24	4	
Phase 2	April 27-30	5*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on student need some students may be assigned alternative or differentiated assignments from one of the following areas: literacy, mathematics or STEAM. 			
Phase 3	May 4-8	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continue Learning Boards and support services → Begin weekly interactive sessions → Ongoing review and refinement to engage students in home learning
Phase 3	May 11-15	7	
Phase 3	May 18-22	8	
Phase 3	May 26-28	9*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classroom teachers provide one interactive session per week for students to engage in student-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classroom circle, Read Alouds, Classroom discussion, Second Step Lessons, etc. • Based on student need some students may be assigned alternative or extension assignments from one of the following areas: literacy, mathematics, or STEAM. 			

*Indicates a week with less than 5 days

Special Education:

Given these unique circumstances, case managers and parents may determine that a child's plan needs to be adjusted to meet Free and Appropriate Education.

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My child can complete the home learning assignment very quickly. Will additional direction be given to my child to move them forward?

Students are encouraged to watch the instructional videos before they complete each learning board. Starting in week 3, a teacher will work with students through their instructional phone calls to see who needs additional practice and who needs an extension activity. During the instructional phone call, the teacher may assign either additional practice or an extension activity. Please see the answer to “Will the home learning boards be adjusted in the following weeks?” for more information on the home learning board phases.

Do schools take attendance at the elementary level during distance learning?

Attendance will be recorded each week. A week for students is considered Sunday through Saturday.

Attendance will be based on student participation on the home learning boards or assigned tasks. The home learning board activities will be posted on each school’s website, and progress monitored weekly. Additionally, teachers will reach out to families once every three school days. If students are not engaging in or responding to learning activities for an entire week, the student will be counted absent. If students are participating in learning tasks assigned for the week, they will be counted as present.

Engagement and Work Completion:

The student engagement is determined by their engagement and work completion for each week. Student participation may vary greatly from phone calls and emails to interacting via online resources with their teacher or class.

- Engagement:
 - This may occur in real-time or on the family’s own time within the assignment parameters.
 - A parent/guardian connecting with a teacher on behalf of the student would also be considered engagement.
 - Students or families using the Home Helpline to work on an assignment with an available educator.
- Work Completion:
 - When a student’s academic assignments are completed they need to be communicated to the teacher.
 - During teacher set communication time, once every three school days to review and share assignments.
 - Submit assignments as requested by the classroom teacher (Examples: picture of the assignment on a digital platform, email, SeeSaw, Zoom or other digital resources).
- Attendance:
 - If students/families are not meeting the attendance expectations as defined above, the following process will be used:
 - After 1 week of unexcused absences:
 - Classroom teachers or specialists will call the family to offer support and reinforce the expectations for completion and engagement.
 - If the family or student has a prior relationship with the school counselor or social worker, they may also reach out and offer support to the family and encourage engagement and work completion.
 - After 2 consecutive weeks of unexcused absences:



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- Classroom teachers or specialists will continue to call the family weekly. They will also make a referral to the school principal. The school principal will work with their building level support team to call the family and offer support, building & community resources as needed, and encourage engagement and work completion. The assigned building level resource person will communicate back to the building administration and referring teacher or specialist once a connection is made.
- If no one can connect with the student or family for two consecutive weeks, the missing child protocol will be implemented. The City of Fargo's Community Resource Officer will be notified to follow-up with the family and reinforce the importance of school engagement and work completion.
- If at any point there is evidence of child neglect or abuse, an immediate referral to Cass County Social Services should be completed using the 960 form.

If you need additional clarification on attendance procedures, please contact your child's principal. If you have a question specific to your child's attendance, please visit with their classroom teacher.

This FAQs document will be updated as needed with additional questions and answers.

