



Northern Suburban
Special Education District

Committed to the Possibilities in Every Learner, Every Day

Subject: NSSED e-Learning/Distance Learning Plan

Introduction:

Public Act 101-0012 of the 101st Illinois General Assembly allows local school districts to establish e-learning plans to address student learning in a remote environment. NSSED can meet the statutory requirements in a manner that will allow students and families to access materials and digital tools to provide meaningful learning opportunities in remote locations. We will utilize e-learning as a part of the plan to utilize Distance Learning.

Benefits of Distance Learning (e-learning):

- Ensures the safety of students and staff on days of inclement weather or health and safety related advisory closings.
- Maintains the school calendar by not adding emergency days at the end of the school year that would require make-up.
- Avoids unexpected interruptions in learning and services provided to students.
- Promotes school and family collaboration on generalizing skills to the home environment.
- Promotes flexible learning in the digital age and instruction beyond the school walls.

NSSED Distance Learning Structure

NSSED aims to offer distance learning that will provide meaningful learning experiences for each individual child based upon their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Some of the learning experiences may happen in a distance learning structure, while other learning experiences will not. Students served by NSSED will have distance learning plans that align with their IEP goals.

Distance learning experiences will be accessible through postings on Google Classroom, Seesaw learning management systems or alternative communication (i.e. e-mail, google, or phone) as deemed appropriate by the IEP team. IEP teams will monitor student participation.

Distance learning lessons will be based on the student's IEP. In addition to providing core academic support, teams may utilize distance learning to include teaching strategies that support sensory needs, student independence, self-advocacy, daily living skills, and physical movement.

Procedure to Initiate Distance Learning Days

If NSSED decides to use a distance learning day, all NSSED staff and families will be informed via phone, email, and on the cooperative website.

Staff will be expected to work five hours per day, offering students meaningful learning experiences and articulate their schedule with their direct supervisor.

A distance learning day will count as a regular attendance day for all students.

Expectations for NSSED Teachers and Service Providers

IEP teams must collaborate and determine appropriate learning opportunities for each student, aligned to their IEP. These learning opportunities may include: videos, hands-on activities, sensory motor suggestions, reading response activities, digital learning tools, etc.

Service Provider Responsibilities

Contact will be made for each student in regard to the services identified in their IEP. Service providers should operate as consultants and support the educational team when providing appropriate learning opportunities for students.

Staff who provide related services in member districts will consult their administrator.

Non-Licensed Staff: Office Support Staff, Teaching Assistants, and Employment Specialists

There may be different expectations for employees depending on the nature of their work. Staff will be available to support educational teams as needed during distance learning days. Supervisors or administrators will communicate expectations to employees for these days.

Devices/Materials

As appropriate for their role, staff are issued digital tools and other resources to complete their work. Staff who do not have internet access at home will be supported.

Collective Bargaining Units

This plan was prepared in consultation with the NSSED Faculty Association and the NSSED Teachers Assistant Association.

Revision

We will regularly review this plan and communicate changes to families and staff to address difficulties in implementation.