



## VIRTUAL INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY PLAN December 2021

### Directions

In anticipation of inclement weather days, i.e., snow days, in the 2021-2022 school year, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has opened up a pathway for local school systems to repurpose inclement weather days as virtual school days. To ensure meaningful and equitable virtual instruction during inclement days, pursuant to the Superintendent's authority under Education Article §2-303, the following process and attestations have been established to seek approval to repurpose an inclement weather day into a virtual school day. The Virtual Inclement Weather Day Plan applies to the 2021-2022 school year only.

### Devices and Access to Wi-Fi

Describe the school system's plan to ensure that all students (including students with disabilities, homeless students, and English learners) and teachers have the necessary devices at home for virtual inclement weather days and have access to Wi-Fi.

All secondary QACPS students are 1:1 and have devices assigned to them for use at school and home. Elementary students have a device that they use at school and schools have established a plan to ensure that students have their assigned device in the event of impending weather. Elementary Schools will also provide paper packets to students in PreK and K.

Many QACPS students have access to internet connectivity through their home, outside Wi-Fi spots in the community and all QACPS parking lots. In the event a student may not have or may lose access to Schoology, our learning management system, students may call the school or the central office based Instructional Technology Support Coordinator at 410-758-2403 ext. 172 for support. Several hotspots have already been issued to students and hotspots remain available to those students that may need internet access.

We will utilize a 90-minute delay schedule with all staff members will reporting to their assigned buildings.



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### Accommodations

Describe the plan to implement the student's current IEP during the virtual inclement weather day (including specially designed instruction, related services, supplementary aides and services, and accommodations).

A variety of tools, resources, and procedural options will be provided to students across instructional settings to encourage continuity of learning as outlined by the student's IEP and to ensure access, equity, and progress. QACPS will use alternate service delivery models, including but not limited to paper packets, recorded lessons, assignments posted on the learning management system, progress monitoring check-ins, etc. as determined by individual student needs. Service may include direct service, consultation among team members and with families, co-taught instruction, and/or disability need-specific instruction and support that is collaboratively developed and provided through learning experiences.

Instructional materials will be made accessible for the individual student. Accommodations and supports for individual students will be provided in accordance with their IEP.

QACPS will continue to provide technology necessary to ensure equitable student access and to enhance learning outcomes.

### Opportunity for Engagement

The Virtual Inclement Weather Day Plan was publicly presented and discussed at a local school board meeting.

Date of Local Board Meeting(s): February 2, 2022



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### Communication Process

Describe the communication process to students, teachers, parents/guardians, etc. that the inclement weather day will or will not be virtual and the plan for instruction.

Not all inclement weather days may result in a virtual instructional day. If the inclement weather is severe enough to close school buildings and offices, then QACPS would not have a virtual instructional day. Virtual instruction would be implemented on days in which QACPS can open offices on a delayed schedule, but are not able to safely provide bus transportation. For example, conditions are expected to improve but not timely enough for buses to run assigned routes.

QACPS will make every effort to inform schools and the community as soon as a decision is made. As with all weather-related changes to school scheduling, information will be shared through local media outlets, on the district webpage and by phone, text messaging, emails to families and staff, and social media.

Systemic Announcement for Virtual School Day (example)

#### *Virtual Instruction Day*

*Due to inclement weather, Queen Anne's County Public Schools will have an all Virtual Day of Instruction on <insert date here>. Virtual instruction will be provided for all students on a 90-minute delay schedule. Schools and offices will open for staff, 90-minutes late. All QACPS after school and evening activities are canceled or postponed.*

Upon approval, the Virtual Inclement Weather Plan will be available on the county website and each school will share school virtual inclement weather day specifics with families through school communications and on the school website.



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### Additional Factors

Describe any other factors particular to the plan for virtual inclement weather days in your local school system.

**Schedules:** Students will have a minimum of four hours of synchronous instruction on a virtual inclement weather day. The inclement weather schedule will operate on a 90-minute delay which allows for roads and parking lots to be cleared for staff to come into the building to provide synchronous instruction. Instructional staff are issued laptops with cameras to allow for synchronous instruction during the class.

**Attendance:** Students will be expected to be present for synchronous instruction. Students will be coded DL (distance learning) for attending assigned classes. Staff will follow normal attendance procedures.

**Instructional Model:** All levels will implement a balance of synchronous and asynchronous instructional opportunities. Instruction will be provided via Zoom sessions. Zoom sessions may be accessed via computer or phone. Corresponding asynchronous work will be provided via the Schoology learning management system and/or paper packets.

### Attestations (Please check each box)

- There will be a minimum of four hours of synchronous instruction for all students each virtual inclement weather day.
- Attendance will be taken for all students and teachers during the virtual inclement weather day.
- There will be opportunities for students to make up work missed during the virtual inclement weather day.
- The Virtual Inclement Weather Day Plan will be posted on the local school system website. Link will be provided to MSDE upon approval of the Virtual Inclement Weather Day Plan by MSDE.
- The Virtual Inclement Weather Day Plan was presented at a publicly accessible local school system board meeting.



# VIRTUAL INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY PLAN

## December 2021

Signature indicates agreement with the process and all attestations for virtual inclement weather days to be implemented by the local school system in the 2021-2022 school year only. Please submit the completed plan to State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury by email at [mohammed.choudhury@maryland.gov](mailto:mohammed.choudhury@maryland.gov).

Local School System QAAPS

Superintendent Patricia Saelens

Superintendent's Signature [Signature]

Date 2/2/2022