



JANET BARRESI
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Janet C. Barresi

DATE: April 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Requesting a District Virtual Make-up Day for Fort Gibson Schools

Ft. Gibson Public Schools' request for statutory waiver from requirements of 70 O.S. 1-109 pursuant to the Education Deregulations Act for implementation of a plan to consider virtual instruction completed by students as classroom instruction on days the school district is closed due to inclement weather. The goal of the 1:1 computer initiative is to start preparing students to be independent learners and work towards a more personalized type of education plan.

Pursuant to Title 70, Section 3-136, the district has provided the following information relating to the components of the Educational Improvement Plan includes the following components:

- **Description of Educational Benefits to be Derived.** The educational benefits to be derived from the plan is that students and parents will be more engage with student work provided by authentic learning opportunities instead of lost instruction time during snow days.
- **Definition of the Standards of the Plan.**
 - Notify parents via a “calling system” that school will be closed. School closings will also be on local news stations. However, the school will follow a virtual curriculum.
 - Staff will be at school only if it is safe for them to travel, but will be available for assistance during normal school hours.
 - Students will have pre-assigned packets or online assignments.
 - Students will be required to “engage” with the teacher at some point during the day via email, phone, text, or My Big Campus. Students may work at their own pace, but teachers will only be available for assistance during normal school hours
 - Students will be required to complete all assignments and turn them in electronically or in person on the first day back at school in order to be counted in attendance.
- **Development of Definitive Work Products, Such as Improvement Plans and Progress Reports.** Teachers will document the authentic work by students and record progress during the initiation of the Improvement Plan.
- **Demonstrative of Collaboration by Teachers, Administrators, Higher Education Representatives, Students, Parent/Families, and the Community.** Teachers,



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administrators, higher education representatives, students, parents/families, and community members were involved in this four year process, starting with board approval of a long term strategic plan, community forums, and professional development. Staff members were involved in planning throughout the process. Parent feedback was constant. Board reports were given monthly on progress.

- **Development and the Use of an Assessment Mechanism to Determine Progress in Meeting the goals and Objectives of the Plan.** Assessment comparisons were made between student engagement during snow days versus student attendance when school was held during inclement weather. Teachers compared student contacts during virtual days to authentic assignment completion.
- **Development of an In-service Training Plan to be Provided to Personnel at the Site Who Will Participate in the Project.** In-service training for this plan has been initiated with early out Wednesdays three years ago, after three community forums were held to discuss the need for advanced training in blended instruction and CCSS.
- **Report on the Results of the Plan to the State Board of Education and Provision of Appropriate Technical Assistance to Other School Districts and the SDE as Required.** Attendance reports and engagement documentation will be provided to the State Department of Education to report on the results of the plan.
- **Explanation of How the Plan Will Affect Other Schools, Programs, or Sites In the District.** Fort Gibson staff members are willing to assist in the development of rules and standards to ensure fidelity and replication of the model.

Pursuant to Title 70, Section 3-127, the district is required to provide for a period of public review and comment on the proposed educational improvement plan. The district has been working on the development of this plan for three years. It has been discussed and approved by the local school board. Meeting minutes are attached. The district is also required to notify and allow comment by the bargaining agent. Attached is a letter of support from the Ft. Gibson Bargaining Agent.



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OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-4599
(405) 521-3301, Fax: (405) 521-6205
[HTTP://WWW.OK.GOV/SDE/](http://www.ok.gov/sde/)