



COVID-19 Learning Plan

It is the mission of the Armada Area School District to provide all students a dynamic learning environment in order to cultivate a mindset for academic excellence and social growth. In order to do so in a safe manner for the 2020-21 School Year, the Board has adopted this learning plan to affirm its commitment to providing students and parents with the best education while balancing health and safety needs to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This plan is designed to give parents and students choices that will increase student engagement and maintain the excellent student achievement for which the Armada Area Schools is known.

Goals

1. Maintain education both face-to-face and virtual as an option for families.
2. Achieve students growth that exceeds the national average on the NWEA Reading, Math, and Language Usage benchmark assessments. This assessment has been approved by the State of Michigan Department of Education, is aligned to state standards, and will be administered to students both onsite and virtually at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.
3. Use the Empower Learning Management System to track student progress to the standards set by the State of Michigan.

Instructional Options

The Armada Area Schools is committed to providing face-to-face instruction for all families who select it on a trimester basis. Parents can choose between face-to-face or virtual before each trimester and will maintain that selection throughout each term.

Instruction will be provided using the Empower Learning Management System which will enable teachers to maintain the same grade level instructional content for both face-to-face and virtual track that is aligned to the state standards. Students will be graded using a standards-based model that aligns grades directly to the state standards.

Face-to-Face

In person instruction will maintain the traditional offerings as in previous years. The schedule at each level will be adjusted to accommodate safety guidelines recommended by the Macomb County Health Department and the State of Michigan. At the elementary level, students will remain in their classrooms during the day as a cohort. At the secondary level, students will work in three class period sessions that will alternate every two weeks. Session A will contain hours 1-3 and Session B will contain hours 4-6. Students will have an hour each day to work virtually on coursework from the out of session classes in order to maintain their studies and to learn the Empower Learning Management System in case the district has to move to Phase 3 all virtual instruction.

Virtual

Virtual instruction will also be held on the Empower Learning Management System. Students at the elementary level will receive a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction from a designated classroom teacher. Approximately two hours of instruction in the morning and the afternoon will be provided in a synchronous manner and additional work will be provided asynchronously.

At the secondary level virtual instruction will be provided asynchronously. This is due to state restrictions on teacher certification. Students will follow along with recorded lessons and activities under the guidance of a certified teacher serving as a virtual mentor.

Virtual students will be provided with Chromebooks upon request in order to maintain an equitable learning environment. Due to our rural setting, the district understands that internet access can be a challenge. Approximately one-third of the district is located in an area beyond the reach of viable high-speed internet. We are currently piloting options for cellular hotspots in hopes that they might be able to provide internet to families who need it. This would be provided at a discounted rate for families based on need.

Students who are using the virtual model will be required to communicate directly with teacher mentors at least twice weekly using email, telephone, instant messaging, or face-to-face conversation.

The district reserves the right to require students who fail to make adequate academic progress in the virtual program to return to face-to-face instruction.

Special Education

The district is committed to maintaining services for special education students in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. Teachers will hold virtual sessions as required to maintain IEPs and other services.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The district is committed to working with the state and local health departments to prioritize face-to-face instruction and activities, especially for grades K-5, using recommended precautions. The district will use the following metrics to determine whether face-to-face instruction can be maintained safely:

- The trend of COVID-19 cases or positive COVID-19 tests, hospitalizations due to COVID-19, and the number of deaths resulting from COVID-19 over a 14-day period.
- COVID-19 cases for each day for every 1 million individuals.
- The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests over a 4-week period.
- Health care capacity strength.
- Testing, tracing, and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID-19.

Student Engagement Report

		Face-to-Face	Virtual	Total
1	Week One August 31 - September 3	95.22%	100%	95.59%
2	Week Two September 8 - September 11	95.22%	97.07%	95.47%