

Alternative Methods of Instruction

What you need to know about Marshfield's Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI)

What is AMI?

Beginning in school year 2020-21, a local education agency (LEA) will not be required to make up school hours that are lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances (up to 36 hours) if the LEA implements an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan that is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) (see Section 171.033, RSMo).

The Marshfield R-1 district plans to implement virtual learning district-wide in the event of emergency closure related to COVID-19. If the district moves to AMI, we will begin virtual learning on the **second day** of closure.

When will the district use AMI?

The district does **not** plan to use AMI for inclement weather situations. The district will only use AMI in the event of an emergency closure. The main reason AMI would be used in the district is in the event of COVID-19 related impacts on attendance and/or staffing.

Why is the district using AMI?

The district believes it is imperative to have a plan for continued learning in the event of emergency closure. It is our hope to never need to use the plan, but also our desire to proactively prepare for any circumstance with the unknown nature of COVID-19. Additionally federal requirements set forth in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) require districts to have a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP) describing the district's plan for continued operation in the event of a COVID-related closure.

Why will AMI begin on the second day?

In the event that the district were to move to virtual learning and implement AMI days, the first day of closure will be reserved for teachers to prepare materials and communicate with families. We believe the one day buffer allows staff to work as a team and provide material in line with current classroom instruction.

Will the district use AMI for inclement weather?

No. The district will **not** use AMI to implement weather or snow days.

How will AMI compare to the spring 2020 closure?

During the 2020 spring closure, staff quickly acted to provide learning opportunities for students in an environment we had not experienced and with less technology available for students and families. In the event of AMI implementation, learning will be much more closely aligned with current classroom learning and practices. Additionally, the district will plan to distribute iPads and Chromebooks to all students.

What if we do not have access to a computer or internet connected device?

The district will distribute iPads (PK-5) and Chromebooks (6-12) to all students the day before an emergency closure. We are working to have hotspots available to families without access to the internet through a federal grant program. At this time, we do not have the ability to distribute hotspots. Students not having internet access may come to campus and get paper material from their teacher. Additionally, the district will have WIFI access available in campus parking lots to support additional access.

How will students receive a device or hot spot?

Devices (iPads/Chromebooks) will be distributed to all PK-12 students in the event of closure. The district is currently awaiting a shipment of hotspots for families indicating a lack of internet access during enrollment which will be distributed upon arrival.

What can my elementary student (PK-5) expect on an AMI day?

PK-5 teachers will develop and deliver instructional materials for all core areas via the Seesaw app. Students can expect to receive instruction and material daily for ELA, math, science, and social studies. They can expect to receive instruction and material weekly for music, art, PE, and library/media. Parents should ensure they have access to the app in advance of a closure. Material can be completed and submitted within the app. All AMI materials are required work as they count for attendance.

What can my secondary student (6-12) expect on an AMI day?

6-12 teachers will develop and deliver instructional materials via the Canvas platform. Students can expect to receive instruction and material daily for each course they are enrolled in. Parents and students should ensure they have access to Canvas. All AMI materials are required work as they count for attendance.

How is AMI different from other educational options?

AMI is intended for seated students only. Students engaging in virtual learning via the Marshfield Virtual Program (MVP) or other virtual provider will not participate in AMI instruction. Virtual instruction continues as normal in the event of AMI implementation.