

## **Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School Flexible Learning Days Policy**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to support student learning and counter the loss of curriculum momentum resulting from school cancellations due to inclement weather.

### **II. General Statement of Policy**

School day cancellations due to inclement weather may be replaced with Flexible Learning Days, up to 5 days maximum per school year. In the event of a school closure due to inclement weather, learning expectations for all children continue through Flexible Learning activities, which serve as student contact days. Flexible Learning Days cannot replace the face-to-face time children have with their teachers, however they can provide continuity when school is interrupted. MN Statutes 120A.414 outlines how school districts will implement these instructional days allowing them to be counted and included in the required hours of instruction under section 120A.41.

### **III. Procedures**

- A. Families will be notified a minimum of 2 hours before the normal school start time that children are to follow the Flexible Learning Day Plan. Children whose families decide not to participate in a Flexible Learning Day will be considered absent.
  
- B. Daily Work
  - 1. Children's work on Flexible Learning Days will follow the guidelines that they are capable learners and utilize the Flexible Learning Day to pursue work that reflects their study at school. Across grades, work will look different. Generally, for elementary children, Flexible Learning Days will be projects and engagement that reflects the season and the weather. (i.e. observations, activities and experiments that interact with the prevailing weather.)
  - 2. Children's learning must be demonstrated by the end of the third school day after a Flexible Learning Day. This will be the way the District tracks attendance on Flexible Learning Days and allows children who do not have internet access at home an opportunity to complete the work.
  - 3. Children do not need to have internet access to participate in Flexible Learning Days. Projects and guidelines at each appropriate age grouping will be shared with families and children before any Flexible Learning Day is announced so that children can engage independent of internet access.
  - 4. No work shall be required during a Flexible Learning Day that causes an undue burden on families or children to leave their homes or safe shelter in order to procure materials or resources for the day.

C. Accommodations

1. Accommodations for students without access to the Internet, digital hardware, or software in their homes:
  - Pre-set guidelines for academic work and independent work will be communicated with children and families through paper materials sent home prior to a Flexible Learning Day.
2. Accessible digital instruction for students with disabilities under chapter 125A and meet the needs of each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP)/504 plans:
  - Student accommodations and needs for accessibility will be met through the paper and digital resources made available prior to a Flexible Learning Day.

D. Staff Availability

1. Teachers, administrators, and other licensed professionals will be available by email and phone during normal school day hours.

**Legal References**

Minnesota Statutes, Section 120A.414

**Board Approved: March 21, 2023**