EACS eLearning Teacher FAQs

What is eLearning? eLearning is learning conducted via electronic media, typically, but not necessarily, over the Internet.

Can we just assign students some paper/pencil homework? No. The IDOE requires that eLearning material utilize technology. This is not to just be homework... but actual facilitated learning and review. The only students that may receive paper/pencil eLearning work are students with IEPs or ILPs.

Will extracurricular events be affected by the eLearning day? No. Students do not come to school during the weather cancellation day. Students will have 5 days to complete any eLearning material, and schools will have a computer lab open either before or after school during those 5 days. (It is up to the building principals to determine the schedule and the staffing.)

Will our school have a lab open? Yes, schools will have a computer lab open either before or after school during those 5 days. (It is up to the building principals to determine the schedule and the staffing.)

Who will kids call/speak to with connectivity issues? Parents, students, or teachers could call the EACS HELPdesk directly at 446-0257

Will students be able to access lessons beforehand and download here at school and be able to complete work that day? The ability to download ahead of time is completely up to each teacher in where and how they post materials and assignments. For example: if material is used/posted in My Big Campus, iTunes U, or Showbie, it can be downloaded to the iPad before the students leave school.

What about students without iPads? Schools will have a computer lab open either before or after school during those 5 days, (It is up to the building principals to determine the schedule and the staffing), or at any of the eight library branches over the next nine days.

What are the time/work expectations for teachers? For a class taught, a teacher would need to post approximately 30 minutes worth of time-on-task learning material. Teachers would then need to be checking in to MBC to answer student questions from 9:00 to 3:00 during the 6 hour weather-cancelled eLearning day and available during the next 5 school days in school to answer questions.

Do kids need iPads/laptops and Internet? Students with iPads or other computers would be ideal. Refer to above if students do not have the iPad or a computer.
Will teachers need to be available to "interact" with the students during the eLearning day? Yes, dependent upon which platform teachers use. Tools such as Discussions or Messages on My Big Campus or Compass Odyssey are readily available for all students and teachers.

What are the consequences for students who do not complete the work? Students not completing eLearning work should face the same consequences for a normal class session.

Will there be an open lab in school for students who claim no other way of completing the work? Schools will have a computer lab open either before or after school during those 5 days. It is up to the building principals to determine the schedule and the staffing.

What kind of support/guidance will be offered to teachers for setting this up? Since May of 2012, EACS teachers have received/been offered training on MBC to create Discussions, Assignments, Announcements, use Resources, and use the Library. All EACS teachers should have all class groups built in MBC. EACS teachers have had access to Compass Odyssey since 2010. EACS teachers have received/been offered training on other iPad Apps such as Showbie, iTunes U, Pages, Keynote, Educreations, Compass Odyssey, etc. EACS tech coaches and instructional coaches are always available via email, and in the buildings each day.

Are the specific requirements about the type of online content we assign? Yes. The IDOE requires eLearning material to be valid educational content, address the standards, and relate directly to what is being taught in the classroom from the previous day or days. Language arts teachers’ eLearning material should contain some component of Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, and Language and Word Study (the components of Balanced Literacy).

How do we post our eLearning instructions? Using the EACS eLearning instruction template, all instructions to students (or their parents) could be mailed via GroupWise and/or posted in the “Announcements” section of MyBigCampus. Teachers may also communicate with parents via RDS email, but no attachments can be sent via RDS.

Should eLearning material be graded? Teachers have the independence to not require grades for eLearning material; EACS' recommends teachers take grades for most eLearning activities.

When eLearning days overlap, do students get extended time? Yes, for each cancelled day that occurs during a previous eLearning “window” of days, labs should be open for an extra day. Principals also have the freedom to further extend this time if they see the need for their building.

Is there a limit to the number of eLearning days a district may utilize? No such limit is required by the DOE, but a district may choose to set a limit.

Is there a limit to the number of consecutive eLearning days a district may utilize? There is no limit to the number of consecutive eLearning days a district may utilize, but a district may choose to set a limit.