

Self-Directed Learning Day Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Libertyville School District 70

1. What is a self-directed learning day?

Students make time on a “snow day” or within seven days of cancelled school to complete at least three engaging, self-directed, open-ended learning activities. Students should submit evidence of their work completion to their classroom teacher (Highland students should submit evidence with their Studio One teacher) via e-mail or by turning in the learning day activity choice board, comprised of selected learning opportunities, along with any work that is completed. For some activities, evidence of learning includes circling the activity to verify and acknowledge the activity was completed. Other evidence may include a photograph of the student completing the work or a picture of a finished product.

2. When will self-directed learning for school cancellation days occur?

Self-directed learning days will occur on days when in-school attendance is cancelled. School is typically cancelled for safety and weather related situations, such as excessive snow or extremely cold temperatures.

3. What is a benefit of using self-directed learning days for school cancellation days?

Utilizing self-directed learning days for school cancellation allows staff and students to bridge learning during the school year rather than add an extra day at the end of school year.

4. Where can I find the assignments for the self-directed learning day?

A Choice Board Activity Guide of assignments can be found on the school’s website. Click the Parent tab. Click on Self Directed- Learning.

5. Are self-directed learning day activities aligned with the curriculum and each teacher's lesson plan?

Yes, the activities provide offerings that empower students to choose how they want to practice or demonstrate understanding of grade level expectations as they relate to state standards and skills.

6. Will students need and have access to the internet? What can be done if technology is not working or there is not adequate access on a self-directed learning day?

Some activities require access to the internet. However, there are a range of activities that can be done without the use of computers or the internet.

7. How will instructors and support staff be reached during self-directed learning days to facilitate and support student learning?

The learning activities were designed to empower student ownership by allowing for thoughtful open-ended options that promote student choice. Minimal oversight should be required as students should not need direct assistance from a parent, guardian, or teacher to complete assignments chosen.

8. How will parents be provided with information to support their children during self-directed learning events?

Parents and students will receive information ahead of time so they are aware of expectations if school is cancelled. An email will be sent and information will be available on the Libertyville School District 70 website.

9. Is adult supervision needed for self-directed learning experiences?

No. Parents of younger students may need assistance if they email their activity sheet and evidence to their teacher. However, students are encouraged to complete activities independently.

10. How does self-directed learning for weather cancellation account for attendance? Will self-directed learning assignments be graded?

Students will be expected to submit proof of completion for three activities within seven days of cancelled school. Teachers will be asked to review work submission to learn more about their students and work completion. However, the focus is not on a formal grade.

11. How much time is the student expected to work during the self-directed learning day?

There is not a required or specific amount of time students must work. Open-ended activities should inspire students to think differently and make connections to their interests, current school work, and classroom lessons.

12. Are there accommodations for students?

Activities are purposely open-ended so students can vary the level of difficulty and challenge of the activities they select.

13. How will my child verify that the required learning has been completed?

Students use the Self-Directed Choice Board Activity Guide document to circle the activities they complete and share their work with their teacher within seven days. Students or parents can submit evidence of learning via e-mail or by turning in the document along with completed work. As shared, for some activities, evidence of learning may include circling the activity to acknowledge completion, whereby, evidence could also include photographs of the student completing a specific learning activity or of final work product.

14. How does a self-directed learning day for school cancellation fit with Libertyville School District 70's mission?

A learning day of this nature enhances the district's commitment to 21st Century teaching and learning. This type of day promotes individualized learning and provides students the ability to communicate, solve problems, express self-direction, make connections, and utilize technology.

15. How was the structure of self-directed learning days for school cancellation days determined?

In reviewing Public Act 100-0465 as it relates to the Illinois State Board of Education definition of an instructional day, the structure of a self-directed learning day was carefully created. Input from administration and teachers was initiated as a collaborative team designed activities to bridge and support opportunities for recovering learning-based on school cancellation.

16. How is a snow day determined?

Information regarding how school cancellation is determined may be found on the [D70 website](#).

A link to a survey is available on the FAQ, as well as the assignment document, to allow feedback and guide direction for ongoing improvement of this self-directed design.