

## Your Question:

You asked for information on state policies addressing remote learning during inclement weather.

## Our Response:

The following response includes state examples and proposed legislation.

### State examples

The following examples are from states that *explicitly allow* virtual instruction in the event of a school closure caused by inclement weather. Some changes to instructional time policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have opened the door for the use of virtual learning days where these policies didn't already exist. Additionally, districts in states that do not explicitly allow this practice may be implementing similar virtual instruction days.

- **Illinois** has passed [legislation](#) at the state level that explores alternative ways of dealing with school cancellation. The Illinois law simply created a pilot program to understand the merits of an e-learning policy. Based on a scan of news sources, activity around e-learning appears to concentrate at the local level.
- While it is not in state law, the department of education in **Indiana** permits [e-learning days](#) to count toward the 180-day instructional requirement.
- **Kentucky** has a program that allows districts to have a “non-traditional instructional program” that allows students to continue their learning on days when school is canceled. The Legislature passed a [bill](#) during the 2018 session that directs the state department of education to adopt [guidance](#) regarding the program.
- **Minnesota** [allows](#) a school board’s annual school calendar to include plans for a maximum of five days of instruction provided through online instruction because of inclement weather. These plans have to be developed in accordance with the statute governing “e-learning days” — defined as a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by students’ individual teachers because of inclement weather.
- **Ohio** has a [law](#) allowing online learning programs (“e-learning”) in the event of school closure.
- **Pennsylvania** had a [pilot program](#) to allow districts to permit students to complete work at home on snow days.
- **Rhode Island** [allows](#) schools to develop a plan to conduct instruction through virtual education when the schools have been closed because of inclement weather or another emergency. The plan for virtual education must be approved by the council on elementary and secondary education in order to count as a school day.

Finally, we will be tracking remote learning legislation throughout the session and enacted bills can be found in our [State Education Policy Tracking](#) tool.