

2019-2020 Non-Traditional Instruction Program

Application for Returning Districts

KRS 158.070 Section 9:

Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than the equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section, or a variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h), except that the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student attendance days for school districts that have an alternative instruction plan approved by the commissioner of education for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including virtual learning, on days when the school district is closed for health or safety reasons, on nontraditional days, or on nontraditional time. The district's plan shall demonstrate how teaching and learning in the district will not be negatively impacted. Average daily attendance for purposes of Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program funding during the student attendance days granted shall be calculated in compliance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

District Hopkins County Schools

Date March, 28th 2019

Please address the following question completely, providing detail and data as available.

Description and Improvements to Program

1. Please give a description of the Non-Traditional Instruction program planned for the district in 2019-2020. Within the description, also address:
 - Revisions to the district NTI program in order for it to grow in rigor and efficacy for 2019-2020.
 - Program adjustments to improve the program for all its shareholders (students, teachers, administrators, parents, community members, etc.)
 - Any changes related to how the district handles food service staff and costs on Non-Traditional Instruction days.

(answer may be continued on next page)

Description of the Non-Traditional Instruction Program for the 2019-2020 School-Year

The 2019-2020 Hopkins County Schools NTI “SKILLS DAY” program will offer a blended approach to nontraditional instruction. The district will continue to utilize teacher created Study Island lessons for Grades K-8 and teacher created Study Island lessons or other online platform lessons for core classes for Grades 9-12. Many of the high school elective teachers will use Google Classroom and/or SKILLS Day packets since their courses aren’t available through the Study Island platform. Students in grades K-12 will receive paper packets if they do not have internet access at home. All lessons will continue utilizing standards based skill instruction. These learning products are already part of the instructional methods utilized by teachers on a regular basis, ensuring continuation of learning during SKILLS Days. All assignments are developed by teachers based on district wide pacing.

The Hopkins County Schools state-funded preschool students will complete developmentally appropriate activities from all five developmental domains and early literacy and mathematics. SKILLS grids will be returned with parental/guardian signatures. Families will be encouraged to upload pictures of students working from home.

The special education department will explain SKILLS Day procedures to parents during ARC meetings and record the conversation in Conference Summary minutes. Students with disabilities who are enrolled in specialized classrooms will complete grade-level paper packets developed by MSD teachers. Assignments are aligned with student IEP goals and focus on reading, writing, math, social, adaptive, and cognitive skills. Speech, occupational, and physical therapy service time is completed as outlined in student IEPs upon return to school.

Teachers will be available via phone or email during SKILLS days to provide help, clarification, and feedback for assignments. Teachers will document student participation using a district form within five days from the SKILLS day. These forms will be submitted to the NTI Point-of-Contact in each building. This person will calculate participation rates and submit the school document to the district NTI Point-of-Contact.

Revisions to the district NTI program in order to grow in rigor and efficacy

In order for the Hopkins County SKILLS Day program to grow in rigor and efficacy, the district will work with schools to restructure the make-up plan for students who do not have internet access at home or are not able to complete all of the lessons at home. While our students have up to five days to complete the lessons upon return to school, it has been difficult for teachers to work with students to complete the make-up work while moving on with their instruction during the school day. Additional Chromebooks have been purchased for next school year which will also help schools administer SKILLS Day make-up sessions. Schools that implement the “breakfast-in-a-bag” program will work with students to complete make-up SKILLS Day assignments during this time of the day. Middle school and high school students will work on their make-up SKILLS Day assignments within an academic enrichment/advisory period as applicable.

The district plans to create a guidance document for teachers in order to provide options for make-up work such as using the lessons as bell ringers, making paper copies to send home,

posting pictures of the lessons on social media and/or Remind, and/or creating a small group session for students to complete make-up work during class time. Also, some of the high school core teachers have requested to use their Google Classroom instead of Study Island, so the district will work with these teachers to make a decision that is best for the students. Some of the summer professional development hours at the high school level will be dedicated to creating SKILLS Days assignments in preparation for any missed days early in the school year.

Teacher SKILLS Day assignment development teams will meet by September to review lessons to ensure relevance, rigor, and standards alignment. The teams will make changes to lessons if needed.

The Preschool program will update the Parent Handbook to include detailed information regarding SKILLS Day instruction and will also encourage families to continue sharing home-school partnerships via social media posts, parent/teacher conferences, and through teaching strategies GOLD student portfolios.

Program improvements for shareholders

Students: Additional Chromebooks have been purchased for student use. Students will begin logging into Study Island upon return to school in August, so they will be accustomed to using the program before a SKILLS Day is needed. All elementary students will be able to use Clever to login to district programs so they will only need to remember login information for one program instead of multiple usernames and passwords.

Administrators: Administrators will receive instruction on how to use Study Island data reports. The Google Drive will be used to upload school SKILLS participation data and analysis for monitoring and tracking purposes.

Parents: SKILLS Day FAQ information will be provided at the beginning of the school year, and Study Island instructions for Skills Days has been added to the Code of Conduct appendix.

Community: The Communications Coordinator will increase SKILLS Day information to the public through various media outlets: Radio interview, Facebook posts, Twitter posts, Dedicated SKILLS Day web page posts, and sending SKILLS Day instructions to the public library.

Food Service Changes

The district does not plan to change anything with the food service plan. Food service staff will continue to work make-up time to fulfill employment contracts.