

December 16, 2020

Dear Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 School Communities,

As shared in my previous communication on November 19, 2020, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, the Connecticut Department of Education has provided school superintendents with the flexibility to designate “snow days” as remote, e-learning days.

Based on the impending winter storm predicted to impact our communities overnight through the day tomorrow, December 17th, all schools will be operating as a remote e-learning “snow day” mode of school.

As previously indicated, on a designated “snow day” teachers and paraeducators will work remotely. During “snow days” **Live Google Meets will not occur, and learning will be asynchronous.** Lesson plans and activities will be provided through Google Classroom for each class. These days will count as school days. School offices and central office will also be closed tomorrow and staff will work remotely. Students attending any special education programs in our buildings during periods when the district is in remote e-learning mode, will access their programs remotely on “snow days.” There will be no after school activities or athletic events.

Due to the timing of the storm and predicted snowfall, Thursday’s Grab and Go meals (both breakfast and lunch) will be available for student pick-up at dismissal time today. No meals will be provided on Thursday.

As of the date of this communication, our last day of school is scheduled for June 9, 2021. Valley Regional High School graduation is also scheduled to occur on June 9th. As this remote e-learning snow day will count as a school day, there will be no change to those dates.

Sincerely,

Brian J. White
Superintendent of Schools