

NEVADA GIRLS STATE
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 19

AN ACT that will abolish school contingency days in all Nevada school districts and replace them with “digital days”, which utilize the assignment of online school work in place of in-person instruction time on days where school is cancelled.

SECTION 1: In-person school is occasionally cancelled in some Nevada school districts/schools due to inclement weather, unsafe roads, dangerous atmospheric conditions, or other emergency circumstances. In previous years, Nevada schools have been allowed to assign “digital days” to their students on those days when in-person school is cancelled.

SECTION 2: In recent years, Nevada school districts chose to stop all instruction on days that school is cancelled. In place of digital days, they have used contingency days added on to the end of the school year in the case that more than three school days are cancelled. Each school day that is cancelled in these districts after the first three is instead added on to the tail end of the school year, after the school year is planned to finish. Up to three of these contingency days are currently allowed to be added.

SECTION 3: Switching from contingency days at the end of the school year to digital days as a school day is cancelled would better support the flow of learning. Students across Nevada have experience in using technology due to living in this digital age, as well as distance learning throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This distance education skill could be utilized through digital days by continuing teacher instruction or student learning even when students are not present in-person, and therefore preventing a pause in learning when an in-person school day is cancelled. Additionally, with the switch to digital days, students will not be forced to attend another day of in-person school due to events out of their control.

SECTION 4: Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and in years prior, teachers in Nevada school districts converted their physical lesson plans and assignments to an online format out of necessity. As such, many teachers already possess the needed online materials to assign their students on days when in-person school is cancelled.

SECTION 5: Many school districts already possess the infrastructure necessary to distribute laptops, iPads, and other devices that may be needed to complete online assignments from teachers. As well as devices, hotspots of internet connectivity have also been provided in the past for those students without access. Free meals are another important resource that would be provided on these days, which are already provided to individual schools and would be available at convenient locations.

SECTION 6: When instruction time with a teacher is required, Microsoft teams, Google Classrooms, or other video conferencing platforms for live distance learning. Assignments may be turned in in-person when in-person learning resumes, or online through teams. Students can contact their teachers through email, and teachers will be available through email during school hours as well.

SECTION 7: Attendance will be counted through online check-in, participation in lessons, or submission of an assignment. Teachers and schools will be able to decide individually how to best handle attendance in their school and class communities.

SECTION 8: This ACT will be effective upon passage.