

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Topic: Alternative Method of Instruction (AMI)

Short Summary:

ACT 862 of 2017 allows a public school district and open-enrollment charter school to develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction to be used on days when the superintendent closes school due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.

This year the Little Rock School District was approved by the state to provide alternative home learning activities for up to 5 inclement or emergency days.

The alternative method of instruction (AMI) will be project-based learning, e-learning, and other classroom activities/lessons based on assignments created by teachers.

Background:

The Little Rock School District administration in collaboration with school leaders decided to submit an Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan based on ACT 862. ACT 862 of 2017 allows a public school district and open-enrollment charter school to develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction to be used on days when the superintendent closes school due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.

Evaluation:

The implementation of the plan and feedback has been gathered from various patrons and stakeholders for consideration to modify the Little Rock School District's AMI plan. Social media emails, and meetings were used as methods for collecting comments, feedback and suggestions. On February 8, 2018 a meeting was held to discuss solicit input from K-12 students, parents, teachers, classified staff, and administrators. Small group discussion sessions were conducted to capture the pros and cons of the AMI plan from the various groups.

Recommendation:

- **Action Steps for Board of Education**
 - **Consider if community or staff needs to see this.**

No action will be needed from the State Board of Education. However, the amended version of the plan will be submitted for approval in the fall.

Action Steps to be taken:

The suggestions from the stakeholders will be used to modify the AMI plan and implementation guide for the 2018-19 school year. A follow-up communication will be provided to stakeholders regarding changes to the plan.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The plan is aligned to expected curricular needs for students.

Key Points:

Key points that the stakeholders were asked to consider during their small group discussion were:

- Workload –content of assignments
- Age appropriateness (elementary, middle and high school levels)
- Computer (offline and online assignments)
- Time –when to disseminate assignments and expected time to complete assignments
- Responsibilities of students, parents, and teachers with respect to the assignments

Key Partners:

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Administrators

Fiscal Impact

Some fiscal impact was mentioned during the February meeting on the school level due to copying offline take-home packets.

Critical questions for Board to consider:

Suggestions, feedback and comments from Community Advisory Board are welcomed for consideration to the amended plan for the 2018-19 school year.

Date submitted Marvin Burton Submitted by 3-8-18

