



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Bradley Mitchell  
Director, Office of Virtual Education

**DATE:** July 18, 2023

**RE:** eLearning Days

Pursuant to 1A.65.(SDE-EIA: Digital Learning Plan) The implementation of the e-Learning program is the responsibility of the Department of Education. Districts that meet the criteria for an eLearning district as determined by the SCDE may use up to five eLearning days to allow for the make-up of short-term disruptions to in-person teaching and learning interruptions (e.g., power outages, water main breaks).

An eLearning day is used on the specific day that schools would otherwise have had to close due to an unforeseen emergency or when a make-up day would normally be used. eLearning days are designed to offer more flexibility to avoid loss of instruction due to school closings or to manage necessary make-up days that are already included in the school calendar. See the [eLearning Days District Handbook](#) for more detail on how to use eLearning Days.

Pursuant to § 59-1-425 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, each district is required to build in three make-up days into their school calendars. eLearning days themselves do not appear on the planning calendar. If an eLearning district must utilize a make-up day, the district can choose to do so with eLearning. When the make-up day is used in eLearning, it counts toward the five allowed days of eLearning.

Current eLearning Days Districts are asked to review and confirm receipt of the eLearning Days District Handbook. This [confirmation](#) is a requirement for the district to continue to be an approved eLearning District.

Schools that have never submitted applications to be considered for eLearning Days may [apply](#) from **August 7 through August 25**.

Approved eLearning districts are encouraged to include a note on the calendar about the use of eLearning for scheduled make-up days. An example of language that could be used for clarification is as follows:

*District XXX is a SCDE approved eLearning district. The current provision allows the district to use up to five (5) days in eLearning. These days are for emergency situations, such as inclement weather or utility interruptions (for example, water line breaks or power outages). They are not planned days on the calendar.*

An instructional day should not be classified as eLearning unless in response to emergency situations such as inclement weather or utility interruptions that would typically cause a school closing.

If you have questions about the use of eLearning days, please contact Tammy Hegler at [tthegler@ed.sc.gov](mailto:tthegler@ed.sc.gov) or Rebecca Velasquez at [rvelasquez@ed.sc.gov](mailto:rvelasquez@ed.sc.gov). For questions regarding school calendars contact CR Hall at [Chall@ed.sc.gov](mailto:Chall@ed.sc.gov).