Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS)
Alternative Structured Learning Day Program Policy

Updated April 4, 2018

PURPOSE

1. To make up lost learning time due to weather-related school cancellations before state testing occurs rather than at the end of the school year after state testing is complete.
2. To avoid the challenges to families and staff of holding initially unplanned school days during the last week of June.

PROCEDURE

In accordance with the Massachusetts Student Learning Time Regulations, the NHCS Board of Trustees shall consider providing an alternative structured learning program for students in any year in which (a) there are more than five (5) weather-related school cancellations or (b) the last day of school is scheduled to occur during the last seven days of the month of June.

In such years, the Executive Director shall present to the Board of Trustees a brief description of the following:

a) The format, content, and duration of alternative learning activities to be provided to students, and how those activities meet the definition of “structured learning time” as provided in 603 CMR 27.021;
b) The school’s plan to communicate the assignments/activities to all families as well as their due dates and the expectations for completion;
c) If the proposed program includes a digital learning component, the school’s plan for:
   a. accommodating students without sufficient internet or devices for each child,
   b. serving students with disabilities, and
   c. having teachers available who must participate on the days when the program is implemented;
d) The school’s plan for collecting parent and teacher feedback after the alternative learning program is complete; and
e) How completion of the alternative structured learning program will affect the scheduled last day of school.

The Board of Trustees shall approve the proposed alternative structured learning program if the activities are substantial, accessible, and include appropriate oversight and teacher involvement rather than resembling traditional homework assignments.

1 “Structured learning time” shall mean time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments within the curriculum for study of the “core subjects” and “other subjects.” In addition to classroom time where both teachers and students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study, technology-assisted learning, presentations by persons other than teachers, school-to-work programs, and statewide student performance assessments.