

# RHS Flexible Learning Plan

Did you know that almost everyone who uses a computer has completed some type of Digital Learning? Perhaps it was called web-based training, or online learning, or computer-based training, but it's all under the same Digital Learning umbrella. Digital Learning can encompass a wide variety of online initiatives.

A good, broad way to think about Digital Learning is as the use of electronic devices (computers, tablets, or phones) to deliver educational or training content to learners. Rome High School wants to use Digital Learning through Google Classroom and other Learning Management Systems (LMS) to help ensure all students are receiving the maximum amount of instructional time when school gets delayed or closed due to bad weather. Rome City Schools would also like to implement planned Flexible Learning Days to provide opportunities to have in-house professional learning for staff members.



## How Do We Define Digital Learning?

Many people would recognize a basic Digital Learning course as a slide-based online activity that contains simple navigation buttons (such as Next and Back) and incorporates quizzes with true-false or multiple-choice questions.

But not all Digital Learning courses share the same fingerprint. For example, it could be an inherently responsive web-based course that allows learners to have a great learning experience no matter what device they're using to view their course. Or maybe it's a software simulation that demonstrates the click-path through an application. Or an interactive course that features role-playing and complex decision-making.

### Why Is Digital Learning Valuable?

Digital Learning offers many benefits that more traditional training options, such as facilitated sessions or lectures, don't provide. For example, Digital Learning ...

- **can be either an asynchronous or synchronous activity:** Traditionally, Digital Learning has been asynchronous, which means there is no predetermined time for the learning to take place. Everyone can go at their own pace and take their time to learn what they need to know when they need to know it. However, more synchronous Digital Learning is now being offered through web conferencing and chat options. The great thing about Digital Learning is it gives you the option to do one, or both.
- **has a global reach:** Digital Learning can simply be placed online and easily accessed by people around the world. There is no need for expensive travel or meetings across multiple time zones.
- **spans multiple devices/mobile:** Online courses can work on computers as well as on mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. This means Digital Learning courses can literally be in the hands of the people who need them, at all times.

- **is just-in-time/needs-based:** Digital Learning authoring software is so easy to use that anyone can create, publish, and share a course within a few hours, allowing you to provide people with resources and training they can access right when they need it.
- **is more efficient:** With Digital Learning, you can develop a course that can be distributed electronically to thousands instead of having to organize in-person training sessions whenever people need to be brought up to speed.
- **reduces costs:** All of the above-mentioned factors result in cost savings for organizations that use Digital Learning courses to replace some of their traditional instructor-led training.
- **allows for consistent quality and content:** When you develop a Digital Learning course, you can deliver the same message to all learners consistently. In classroom training, the message, equipment, and other conditions can vary widely from one session to the next, which can affect the outcome of the course.

And that's just the beginning! As you can see, Digital Learning can be an extremely valuable asset to your organization.

### **How Is Digital Learning Shared?**

Once you've created a Digital Learning course, you need to distribute it to learners. There are many ways to do this, and—like everything else related to Digital Learning—those ways are constantly evolving and improving. Here, I'd like to look at two ways to share content: informal distribution and formal distribution.

#### **Informal Distribution**

Informal distribution of Digital Learning content typically means users are trusted to view the Digital Learning course, and their participation isn't tracked or scored. One way to informally share a Digital Learning course is to put it on a web server, then send participants the link and have them view the course. You don't really have a systematic way of knowing whether learners have completed the course, but sometimes that's not necessary.

## Formal Distribution

Sharing a Digital Learning course formally means there's a need to track and record learner results. Most organizations that have a need for formal distribution of Digital Learning have specific systems and standards in place for this.

Tracking is usually done in what is called a Learning Management System (LMS). Certain standards are in place to report the information to the LMS, including AICC, SCORM, and, more recently, Tin Can.

Here are a few important terms to understand related to the distribution of Digital Learning:

- **LMS:** LMS stands for Learning Management System and refers to software used to administer, track, report, and document the delivery of your Digital Learning courses.
- **SCORM:** The Sharable Content Object Reference Model is a collection of specifications and standards for Digital Learning, which allows your Digital Learning course to communicate with your LMS.
- **Tin Can API (or xAPI):** Tin Can API (Application Programming Interface) is a new specification for Digital Learning that collects data about a person's learning experiences across various devices and platforms.
- **AICC:** The Aviation Industry Computer-Based Training Committee is a set of specifications designed so learning technology vendors can spread their development costs across multiple markets. While some LMS's still use this standard, most experts agree that it's fairly outdated.

## What Makes a Digital Learning Project Successful?

Many factors contribute to a successful Digital Learning program, but the top two are:

- A production process that uses the right apps
- Solid instructional design
- Let's take a closer look at these two essential elements.

## **Apps**

Powerful apps let you create the functionality and interactivity that you want for your learners. They help you make Digital Learning that looks and works great, which goes a long way toward a successful Digital Learning course.

The more user-friendly the app, the less time you'll spend on technical issues. This frees you up to commit to the instructional design to craft a great learning experience.

## **Instructional Design**

One way organizations measure the success of a Digital Learning project is by how much the learner's knowledge and skills have improved after they've taken the course. To provide your learners with the best odds, you should have content that is designed in an instructionally sound manner. Instructional design is all about creating educational experiences that maximize learning and present content in the most effective way.

If you're new to instructional design, I recommend reading up on the basics to help you create instructionally sound courses with solid learning objectives. You can have the most fabulous-looking course in the world, but if the content quality isn't top-notch, it's not going to have the impact you desire.

## **The Bottom Line**

Digital Learning course development is constantly evolving. Authoring apps will continue to improve; however, your focus should remain on using those apps to create the best Digital Learning possible.

In its relatively short history, Digital Learning has come so far and offers immeasurable opportunity to help people learn better. I hope this overview of Digital Learning was useful and inspires you to push yourself to create engaging courses that will delight your learners.

## **Where do I find the Digital Learning material?**

All Digital Learning will be done through Google Classroom. Students can access their work in Google Classroom and complete the assignment that has been posted to them for that class. The content should be relevant and reflect something they have covered in class. All content will be posted online prior to the Digital Learning so students can access and download content if needed. Parents can click on the following button to learn more about Google Classroom.

[QUICK GUIDE TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM](#)

[GOOGLE FOR PARENTS](#)

[GOOGLE CLASSROOM](#)

## **When and where can I complete my work if I do not have internet access?**

If a student does not have an internet connection, the school will provide the students with the opportunity to complete their work after the Digital Learning Day. Students will have until the following Friday to complete and turn in any Digital Learning assignments. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school below.

[SCHOOL CONTACT](#)

# Digital Learning Expectations

Flexible Learning Days are only for grades K-12 in Rome City Schools

## What will these Digital Learnings look like from a student's point of view?

- Students in grades K-12 will work off-campus on Digital Learning Days.
- There will be no buses running and the school will be closed to students.
- The instruction delivery and quality will be reflective of a normal school day. Students will receive instruction via Google Classroom while having access to their teachers via email. All students will be given their assignments for the Flexible Learning Day the Friday before to ensure they understand the assignments and are able to download the material if needed. Student work will be due the next Friday by 8 AM. Attendance will be recorded by the teacher when the student's work is completed and submitted through Google Classroom in grades K-12.

## How will teachers be directly reachable by students to facilitate and support instruction?

- Teachers will be available between school hours via email.

### [SCHOOL CONTACT](#)

## What do I do if my Chromebook is not working?

- Make sure your Chromebook is charged.
- Restart your Chromebook.
- Use another device to complete work for the day and turn in the work in when you return to school.



# **Frequently Asked Questions**

For more information, read the Digital Learning FAQ included below:

## **What is a Flexible Learning Day?**

Currently, Georgia state law requires students to attend 180 instructional days. A Flexible Learning Day is an approved instructional day that can be used as a make-up school day through technology. To ensure it could be implemented correctly, significant work was completed in our 1:1 initiative (ratio of 1 computer for each student), instructional practices with technology and technology infrastructure.

## **Why utilize Digital Learning?**

To ensure Digital Learning could be implemented correctly, significant work was completed in our 1:1 initiative (ratio of 1 computer for each student), instructional practices with technology and technology infrastructure. We are pleased to announce that RCS has reached the point where implementation is now possible.

## **What do the lesson plans look like for the day?**

The RCS requires that lessons are relevant to the current curriculum. Due to a guaranteed and viable curriculum throughout grade levels and content areas, many of these collaborative areas (Professional Learning Communities) will be able to share ideas and lesson plans for the day. Teachers will follow the Workshop Model to ensure students are receiving instruction similar to what is given at school.

## **What do I do if a student cannot connect on that day?**

It is understood that all students may not be able to attend digitally due to previously scheduled events or obligations. Digital Learning provides a great amount of flexibility. Students will have additional time to complete the Digital Learning lessons. Digital Learning assignments will not be due until the Friday morning following the actual Flexible Learning Day. This will also provide for special services if required or needed for students.

### **What will training look like for the parents?**

The Digital Learning Instructional Staff has developed parent help guides and instructions to assist with these days. Parents will also have the opportunity to learn more about the Flexible Learning Days at our Open House.

### **When will the work be due and how will attendance be taken?**

Attendance will be counted with the completion of the assignments. Assignments will be due on the Friday morning following the Flexible Learning Day.

### **Will we have future Digital Learning Days on the actual day of the cancellation?**

This could be an option for the future. Currently, we are just in the beginning stages of the Digital Learning journey. At this time, plans do not include making up the days on the exact day of cancellation.

# RHS Flexible Learning Day

**Directions:** Please complete each section below for the Flexible Learning Day. When you finish each activity, please turn in any assignments through Google Classroom. If no assignments are due, continue to the next section to complete the lesson. Assignments are due when we return the next Monday, but you have until Friday of that week complete the entire assignment.

<u>Standard:</u>	
<u>Opening(15 Minutes):</u>	
<u>Work Time(30 Minutes):</u>	
<u>Closing(5 Minutes):</u>	
<u>Notes and Resources:</u>	

## Creating A Flexible Learning Day Plan

Using the template above, provide resources for students to use to complete each activity in the lesson. We will follow the Workshop Model when creating our lesson. The lesson will need to include the standard, the opening, the work time, and the closing. Below are some examples of how to incorporate technology into each area of the Workshop Model:

Opening:

- Create a Video (Loom, Screencast-o-matic, Screencastify,....)
- YouTube Videos
- Websites
- Edpuzzle

Work-Time:

- Edulastic
- Nearpod
- Kahoot
- Quizizz
- Google (Docs, Slides, Sheets,....)
- Flippity
- Brush Ninja
- Popplet

Closing:

- Group Discussions (Google Classroom)
- Blogging
- Reflections
- Padlet
- Synth Podcast
- Flipgrid

While these are not all of the tools you can use, there are some good technology tools listed here that can be used to complete activities on the Flexible Learning Day. Please remember to not overload students as they will have several classes of work to complete but make sure the standards are being covered and assessed for understanding at the conclusion of the Flexible Learning Day.