



**Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan
2019 -2020 Application**

District Information

District Name	Jasper School District	LEA Number	5102000
City	Jasper, AR	County	Newton
Superintendent	Mr. Jeff Cantrell	Phone	870.446.2223
Email	jcantre@jasper.k12.ar.us	Cell	

Individual School / Campus Name	Grade Level
Jasper High School (Jasper, Newton County)	7-12
Jasper Elementary School (Jasper, Newton County)	K-6
Kingston High School (Kingston, Madison County)	7-12
Kingston Elementary School (Kingston, Madison County)	K-6
Oark High School (Oark, Johnson County)	7-12
Oark Elementary School (Oark, Johnson County)	K-6

Previous Information

Total number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.

Total number of AMI days used

	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
Total number of days the district missed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances.	4	2 (Jasper & Kingston) 3 (Oark)
Total number of AMI days used	4	2 (Jasper & Kingston) 3 (Oark)

Breakdown of 2018-2019 AMI Days by Campus:

- Jasper Elementary School – 2 AMI days taken on 1/21/19 and 3/4/19
- Jasper High School – 2 AMI days taken on 1/21/19 and 3/4/19
- Kingston Elementary School – 2 AMI days taken on 1/23/19 and 3/4/19
- Kingston High School – 2 AMI days taken on 1/23/19 and 3/4/19
- Oark Elementary School – 3 AMI days taken on 2/7/19, 2/8/19, and 3/4/19
- Oark High School – 3 AMI days taken on 2/7/19, 2/8/19, and 3/4/19

*Although all 3 schools are in the same district, they are spread out by many miles. Therefore, unless the emergency circumstances or inclement weather events are wide-spread events, the campuses typically vary on AMI days needed.

Submission Instructions:

- E-mail completed applications to ADE.AMIapplication@arkansas.gov
- The deadline for applications to be submitted is September 15th.
- Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Incomplete or partial applications will not be reviewed.
- Consult the AMI Guidance document for additional information regarding plan topics.
- Notification of status will be sent via email to the superintendent at the address provided above.
- Approval is granted for the current school year only. Applications must be renewed annually.

A. If school is canceled due to an emergency or exceptional circumstance such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or utility outage, explain the process by which the district shall determine if the school closure will be an AMI or make-up day.

Ballgames or other school events, lack of substitutes, or lack of bus drivers do not qualify as an exceptional circumstance.

As in the past, all regularly school days missed due to exceptional circumstances shall be considered AMI days until the maximum allowable is reached. Days missed beyond the maximum allowable shall be considered make-up days.

Should special circumstances exist that might prevent the majority of students from completing AMI assignments (e.g. – severe weather combined with a multi-day regional power outage), the Superintendent will consult with the District Administration Team to determine if meaningful learning can still take place. If it appears that meaningful learning cannot take place, the Superintendent will declare those days to be make-up days.

B. Provide a description of the AMI assignments and materials used at each school within the district to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students. AMI Packets must be available on-line or have been sent home prior to designation of an AMI Day.

A significant number of students in the Jasper School District lack access to computers and/or the internet at home. Therefore, basing our District AMI Plan on a “digital day” approach would be both inequitable and unworkable. To meet the needs of our students, AMI assignments must provide creative solutions for overcoming the limited resources our students have at home.

The JSD criteria for AMI assignments include the following:

- 1) All AMI assignments should reflect evolving instructional practices and be designed to deepen understanding and help build essential skills.
- 2) All AMI assignments must be purposeful and meaningful, and primarily involve tasks that are interesting and engaging. Teachers must avoid using worksheets and similar “busywork” for AMI assignments.
- 3) All AMI assignments must have a logical connection to the regular classroom. This includes reflecting state standards and district curriculum goals.
- 4) Students must be able to complete all AMI assignments using only the basic resources that are readily available at home.
- 5) All AMI assignments should take roughly the same time to complete as an assignment in the regular classroom.
- 6) For self-contained classrooms, AMI assignments may be combined into cross-curricular projects, as long as those projects meet the same criteria that would be expected in a regular classroom setting and can be completed within the appropriate time frame.
- 7) For subject-specific courses (primarily high school), an AMI assignment may be a project designed for multiple days, as long as each part of the assignment (equivalent to one class period) can stand alone.

In addition, since AMI assignments are by definition “homework,” they must also follow the guiding principles of the Jasper School District Homework Policy. These guiding principles can be found in Section D of the JSD Homework Policy at:

<https://docs.google.com/a/jasper.k12.ar.us/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxqYXNwZXJjdXJyaWN1bHVtfGd4OmQyMzFkMWU5OTdiODkxNQ>

C. Describe how student attendance will be determined for an approved AMI day.

We are requesting approval for five AMI days for the 2019-2020 school year at this time.

For purposes of the AMI day, a student shall be determined as “present” if he/she returns the assignments AMI work within the period allowed after returning to school. If a student does not return the assigned AMI work within the period allowed, he/she shall be counted as “absent.” All attendance will be determined and reported within five days of the declared AMI day.

D. Describe how the district will ensure implementation of Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities on AMI days.

As far as possible, required accommodations must continue to be met on AMI days. AMI assignments in SPED students' packets will be reviewed by the AMI team to verify that all lessons meet appropriate provisions of the individual student's IEP.

It is recognized that Setting, Scheduling, and Timing accommodations (preferential seating, extended time, frequent breaks, etc.) are often *easier* to meet in a home setting than in a classroom environment. However, Presentation and Response accommodations (audio recordings, oral response, etc.) may be more difficult to achieve. Therefore, SPED teachers are expected to make special efforts to design each student's AMI assignments with his/her specific IEP in mind.

Any adjustments to the IEP for AMI days must be recorded in the conference summary section of the student's IEP.

E. Describe how the district will communicate with parents and students the purpose and expectations for an AMI day. Please include the link to the website or social media where the information will be posted.

Clear communication with parents and students is essential if AMI days are to be effective. At the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent will send a letter to all parents explaining the purpose of the program and expectations for the day(s). He will also submit an informational article to the three newspapers that serve our various communities.

The AMI packets will be sent home with every student prior to a designated AMI day. These packets include a letter to parents with the same information that is covered in the newspaper articles. Within the first month of school, each Building Principal will hold a fun, upbeat assembly to re-introduce the AMI plan to students.

After the assembly, teachers will follow up with classroom discussions. They will remind students what an AMI packet looks like and will discuss the amount of time students are expected to spend on assignments.

Throughout the process, administrators and teachers will constantly emphasize that the success of the AMI program depends on active support from students, and that if AMI days are not successful, the alternative is to return to the old system of adding make-up days at the end of the school year.

When an AMI day becomes necessary, parents are notified through the District "School Messenger" system and will be posted on the District's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/JasperSchoolDistrict/>. This is the same process used to communicate other important information and weekly updates.