



Blizzard Bag Update

TO: Jeannine Durkin, Acting Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment *Robin Desmond*

DATE: November 30, 2018

RE: *Blizzard Bag Update*

The following report is in response to the motion by Gerald Nutter:

Lowell School Committee will work with Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum to explore creating remote learning programs or blizzard bags to be used after 5 snow days.

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment has created samples of grade level “Cancelled School Day Learning Packets”. Due to the high volume of cancelled school days for many weather related issues beyond blizzards, we feel the name change is appropriate. Included in this packet is grade 1 and grade 5 samples. These samples include required ELA and math activities and optional science, social studies and virtual field trip activities from which students must complete one. Also included, is a sample of a question and answer (Q & A) sheet.

It is the recommendation of the Lowell Public Schools that we pilot these learning packets for the 2018-2019 school year. The work would be completed for up to two (2) “cancelled school days” beyond the 185th day listed on the school calendar. The assignments would be due no later than May 15, 2019 although assignments could be submitted and accepted as they are completed. It would be the hope that a schedule of 45 minutes of teacher support would be offered at each school in the spring for any student in need of support with some of the work. All materials will be available online. Printed copies could be obtained at students’ schools or, the Lowell Public Library, and the Family Resource Center. The expectation is the work will be completed by all students. However, students will be marked absent for the last one or two days of school, pending the amount of work not completed. It is our hope that all students would have the opportunity to complete the work throughout the spring of 2019.