

tie,” the father of a Dilworth Middle School student told us. “I’ll decide how my child spends her time at home, and I’m going to tell my legislator that.”

If he follows through, it will be unusual. Legislators we contacted said they are not hearing about the issue.

“A snow day is murder,” the mother of a Sparks High student said after the first Feb. 5 Digital Day. “We have to scramble to make it work, since both of us [parents] work. I don’t need another item to cope with. And this one was a big, big task.”

Moreover, the use during Feb. 5 of a mix of zones and two-hour delays caused confusion that resulted in an explosion of social media distress.

One parent we spoke with said neither she nor her children have the devices to make Digital Days work, and she resents low income families being put in such a position.

Some journalists took the NDE opinion as conclusive and reported as fact the opinion’s conclusion that Digital Days are illegal. In fact, the district has its own legal counsel and is free to rely on those lawyers. The state opinion was signed by state schools Superintendent Steve Canavero, who is not an attorney.

Canavero ended his memo, “We certainly hope that you will engage in conversation with the legislature regarding your proposal and

how the challenges the WCSD is experiencing in this area could effect a change in legislation.” ThisisReno.com reports that the district has been in discussions with legislators.

The Washoe district first tried out Digital Days in a pilot program on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe’s North Shore last year, which some officials said might lead to the California side of the lake using the program. If that was likely, it may no longer be, since the publicity has cooled off some parents.

In the Tahoe Tribune, one parent posted a reader comment: “Some kids just don’t have an environment at home conducive to learning. This policy harms children already at a disadvantage and should never have happened. I sincerely hope that here in

LTUSD [Lake Tahoe Unified School District], with our extremely high population of poor, homeless, and children living in volatile home situations, that this is never implemented. We already have these failing programs of the ‘sports school,’ ‘science school,’ ‘art school,’ and an uninteresting and test targeted curriculum. Let’s not further set our children back by failing to recognize that they all deserve equal ground to stand on.”

Practical instructions for students on “Digital Days” can be read at www.washoeschools.net/Page/12155

State and local were not meshing on distance education.

Snow day?



At the Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Reno, with steam rising from the parking lot pavement under the sunshine beating down, a guard turned people away at the door at 3 in the afternoon on Feb. 15 because the agency—and other state offices—closed early. It was the second time in February that Gov. Steve Sisolak sent state workers home early as a result of weather. Recently the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Sisolak’s mother “used to make him and his brother get up early to shovel snow” in Wauwatosa, but his adult life in Las Vegas seems to have more influence on him now.

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