

1650 REMOTE LEARNING

In response to State directives regarding reopening school with adequate precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the board shall provide opportunities for fully virtual and hybrid learning (consisting of in-person and remote instruction for all pupils. The Board of Education shall support a program of fully virtual and hybrid learning (consisting of in-person and remote instruction) that:

1. Prioritizes the health, safety, and wellness of students and staff;
2. Maintains the continuity of learning;
3. Facilitates equity and ease of access to communications and resources;
4. Flexibly accommodates the needs and varying circumstances of all learners;
5. Incorporates educators, students, parents/guardians, board members and other community members into the entire analysis and planning cycle.

The virtual learning program may consist of synchronous and asynchronous tools. Synchronous tools provide ways of accessing and providing information that require interaction with others to occur at the same time (i.e., online classrooms, interactive webinars, video conferencing).

Asynchronous tools provide ways of accessing and providing information that does not require interaction with others to occur at the same time (i.e., forums, blogs, email, website links, etc.).

The length of the school day for in-person, fully virtual and hybrid learning programs shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3, stating that a school day shall consist of not less than four hours, except that one continuous session of two and one-half hours may be considered a full day in kindergarten. District policy 5200 Attendance shall apply and attendance shall be recorded in all educational programs. The attendance and instructional contact time shall accommodate opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction and ensure that the requirements for a 181-day school year are met.

Additional Anticipated Minimum Standard

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Anticipated Minimum Standard provides that, in addition to the methods and considerations explicitly referenced in the NJDOE guidance, *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*, for scheduling students for in-person, remote, or hybrid learning, parents/guardians may submit, and the district shall accommodate, requests for full time remote learning. Such requests may include any service or combination of services that would otherwise be delivered on an in-person or hybrid schedule, such as instruction, behavioral and support services, special education and related services.

A. Unconditional Eligibility for Full-Time Remote Learning

All students shall be eligible for full-time remote learning. Eligibility shall not be conditioned on a parent/guardian demonstrating a risk of illness or other selective criteria. This includes students with disabilities who attend school in-district or are placed at receiving schools (county special services school districts, educational services commissions, jointure commissions, Katzenbach School for the Deaf, regional day schools, college operated programs, and approved private schools for students with disabilities).

B. Procedures for Submitting Full-Time Remote Learning Requests

Recognizing that planning is required in order to provide continuity in the student's educational program and arranging the appropriate staff and resources, a parent/guardian shall submit a request for full-time remote learning, including requests to begin the school year receiving full-time remote learning and requests to transition from in-person or hybrid services to full-time remote learning during the school year. Procedures for submitting the request are as follows:

1. A parent/guardian who wishes a student to begin the school year with fulltime remote learning must submit a request via an online form at least two weeks prior to the start of school, unless an emergency situation arises.
 - a. For students with disabilities, the district must determine if an IEP meeting or an amendment to the student's IEP is needed for fulltime remote learning.
2. A parent/guardian who wishes a student to transition from hybrid, in-person instruction to fulltime remote learning must submit a request using the ONLINE FORM at least two days prior to the requested start date of fulltime remote learning so that teachers can be notified.
3. The online form will clearly state the information or documentation that the parent/guardian must submit with their request.
 - a. Such documentation shall not exclude any student from the fulltime remote learning option but will be limited to the minimum information needed to ensure proper recordkeeping and implementation of successful remote learning.

Upon satisfaction of these minimum procedures, the district must approve the student's fulltime remote learning request.

C. Scope and Expectations of Full-Time Remote Learning

Any student who has a fully synchronous and asynchronous program will have the same instruction as those students who have a hybrid instructional model and the same expectations for attendance, participation and completion of assignments.

D. Procedures to Transition from Full-Time Remote Learning to the In-Person Educational Program

To allow time for administrators, teachers, and staff to adjust and plan for accordingly (i.e. classroom set up and social distancing), we ask that parents/guardians adhere to the following procedures:

1. To allow for optimal continuity of instruction and the time needed for parents/guardians to make the arrangements to effectively serve the student, a request to transition from all-remote learning to hybrid, in-person instruction must be submitted via an online form at least two weeks before the requested start date of hybrid, in-person learning.

E. Procedures for Communicating District Policy with Families

The Superintendent, district administrators and/or teaching staff members shall provide clear and frequent communication with parents/guardians and shall ensure that communication opportunities are as readily accessible as possible. Communication shall include but shall not be limited to, information regarding:

1. Summaries of, and opportunities to review, the district's full-time remote learning policy and attendance policy;
2. Procedures for submitting full-time remote learning requests;
3. Scope and expectations of full-time remote learning;
4. Procedures for transition from full-time remote learning to in-person services and vice-versa;
5. The district's procedures for ongoing communication with parents/guardians and for addressing parents/guardians questions or concerns;
6. Teaching staff members shall have office hours to address questions and concerns. Teachers shall notify the parents/guardians of their students regarding the time of the office hours and the method of contact (email, text, video or teleconference).