

Policy

REMOTE LEARNING

In response to State directives regarding reopening school with adequate precautions to prevent the spread of this contagious disease, the board shall provide fully virtual learning opportunities for all students until such time as it is deemed appropriate to resume in person and hybrid learning. The board shall support a program of fully virtual learning that:

- A. Prioritizes the health, safety, and wellness of students and staff;
- B. Maintains the continuity of learning;
- C. Facilitates equity and ease of access to communications and resources;
- D. Flexibly accommodates the needs and varying circumstances of all learners;
- E. 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, videoconferencing). 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. School policy 5113 Attendance, Absences and Excuses 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 180-day school year are met.

All students must comply with the following policies regarding use of technology when participating in remote learning: the District's Internet Safety and Technology Policy (6142.10) and Use of District Technology Devices Policy (3515.2).

A. Scope and Expectations of Full-Time Remote Learning

All students shall be afforded the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services as any if they were otherwise participating in in-person school programs. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Access to standards-based instruction of the same quality and rigor as that afforded all other students of the school;
2. The school shall make its best effort to ensure that every student participating in remote learning has access to the requisite educational technology;
3. Special education services and related services shall be provided to the greatest extent possible.

B. Procedures for Communicating School Policy with Families

Teaching staff members and administrators shall provide clear and frequent communication with families/guardians, in their home language, and shall ensure that communication opportunities are as

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readily accessible as possible. Communication shall include but shall not be limited to, information regarding:

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

C. Reporting

To evaluate full-time remote learning, and to continue providing meaningful guidance for schools, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) may require schools to report to the NJDOE data regarding participation in full-time remote learning. Data will include the number of students participating in full-time remote learning by each of the following subgroups: economically disadvantaged; major racial and ethnic groups; students with disabilities; and English learners. The lead person shall ensure that such reports are completed efficiently.

Adopted: September 29, 2020

Key Words

Virtual Education, Virtual Learning, Remote Education, Remote Learning, Synchronous, Asynchronous, Transition Request

Legal References:	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:6-3	Courses in constitution of United States
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:33-1	District to furnish suitable facilities; adoption of courses of study
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Curriculum and courses
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.6 through -4.8	<u>Parents Right to Conscience Act of 1979</u>
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.1	Curriculum and instruction
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.1	Graduation requirements
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-3.1 <u>et. seq.</u>	State Board of Examiners and certification
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-5, -6, -8, -9, -10, -11, -12, -14	
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-3.7	Individualized education program
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:14-4.1	General requirements
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:23A-9.5	Commissioner to ensure achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-8 <u>et seq.</u>	Student attendance and accounting

New Jersey Department of Education: *Clarifying Expectations Regarding Full Time Remote Learning Options for Families in 2020-2021* (Supplementary to *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*); July 24, 2020. See:

<https://nj.gov/education/reopening/updates/docs/7.24.20%20RtR%20Fulltime%20Remote%2>

Possible

Cross References:	*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	*6121	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action

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- *6122 Articulation
- *6140 Curriculum adoption
- *6142.1 Family life education
- *6142.2 English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
- *6142.4 Physical education and health
- *6142.6 Basic skills
- *6142.9 Arts
- *6142.12 Career education
- *6146 Graduation requirements
- *6147 Standards of proficiency
- *6164.2 Guidance services
- *6171.1 Remedial instruction
- *6171.2 Gifted and talented
- *6171.4 Special education
- *9130 Committees

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.