



# What is Distance Learning?

Created by: Michelle Hawe, Education Specialist  
Modified by: Janel Jahsi, Delta Sierra Middle School

In today's world, we can learn and receive instruction in a variety of different ways! Distance learning is not as foreign to us anymore, but it is still something we are unsure of. This school year we must be prepared for full-time distance learning and part-time distance learning in a hybrid model. The good news is learning will happen in whatever setting we are in!

To assist us in identifying and meeting your needs, please take a moment to fill out this brief survey: [DSMS Parent Technology/Instructional Needs Survey](#)

This handout is a quick Q & A of questions about distance learning and the upcoming school year.

## Terms to know about distance learning:

- **Distance Learning:** Students are enrolled in a class and attached to a teacher (your regular class) however, there is no in-person contact.
- **Synchronous:** Everyone is online at the same time interacting. Teachers and enrolled students in the course will interact live on a given platform.
- **Asynchronous:** Everyone is able to work at their own pace online. The teacher is available through office hours and/or scheduling meetings.
- **Fixed Online Class:** Students are required to log in at a specific time for a specific duration of time. Example: 8a-9:30a period 1, 9:45a-11:00a period 2, lunch break 12:30p-1:45p and so forth. Students must be present in all classes.
- **Office Hours:** Teachers will be available to virtually meet and support students. This is a great time to ask questions and get help on assignments.

## [DSMS Student/Parent Distance Learning Tools/Tutorials](#)

### Are there standards/expectations for distance learning by the state?

The short answer: YES! California AB 77 and SB 98.

The main points:

- Daily interaction required
- Checking families' connectivity



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- Taking attendance
- Minimum instructional time
- Serving student needs
- Weekly engagement records
- Preventing disengagement

## What does the state of California define as distance learning?

- Interaction, instruction, and check-ins between certificated teachers and students through the use of an electronic device (computer, phone, email, etc.)
- Instruction would be through videos, live class, podcasts (audio), digital assignments, etc.
- Synchronous and asynchronous learning time.

## How long will a school day be while distance learning?

- Educational minutes per day will be different and based on grade levels. Lodi Unified School District will follow the **school's regular bell schedule**. Please check with your student's school to find the current bell schedule.

## What if I do not have connectivity for school?

- Contact your school site. Schools have been checking out Chromebooks for students.
- Check the Lodi Unified School District website for remote resources.
- If something changes in connectivity, please contact your teacher/school as soon as possible.
- Per AB 77, schools are to help provide students the appropriate resources to participate in distant learning.

## Will attendance be taken on a daily basis?

- Short answer: YES!
- Students will need to "connect" with school daily. If a child does not "connect" they will be marked absent.



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- Each school/class will have different ways they “connect” with a student. Each school/class will likely have their own way of taking attendance, make sure to know what is expected for your school.
- Some things you may experience:
  - Signing into your class on your school’s platform (Google Classroom)
  - Fixed class time where students will be required to log in
  - Digital assignments that are due on a day and time.

**My student receives special services at school. Will my student still receive those services?**

- Short answer: YES!
- IEP’s and other services including mental health should be continued during distance learning.
- Lodi Unified School District has allowed for in-person testing for IEP and English Learner compliance. Please contact your case manager for further information.
- IEP’s should include documentation of an emergency plan for your student for distance learning/ school closures lasting more than 10 days. Plans should document specialized academic instruction (SAI), accommodations, services (Speech, Counseling, OT, DHH, etc.), transition services, ESY for during the emergency situation.
- Consult with your case manager about the upcoming school year and how to support your student with digital learning.