

Vermont School Board Association	VSBA Code:	D22
Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union	First Reading:	08/13/2020
Policy Statement	Second Reading:	09/16/2020
	Date Adopted:	09/16/2020

Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency Due To COVID-19 Pandemic

The Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (Hartland, Weathersfield, and Mount Ascutney) is committed to the success of every student. The School Board holds itself and all District and school-site decision-makers accountable for developing a continuum of district-wide, flexible modes of instruction and a system of communication thereof during the State of Emergency.

The District will ensure the provision of the minimum instructional hours in any one of the following three ways:

1. The total hours of direct instruction and expected independent student work for the day equal the minimum daily hours set forth in State Board Rule 2312.1; or
2. The cumulative hours of direct instruction and expected independent work for the week equal the cumulative minimums set forth in State Board Rule 2312.1; or
3. The District obtains the Secretary of Education's prior approval of another method of counting instructional hours per State Board Rule 2312.2.

The Board delegates authority to the superintendent to develop and implement rules and procedures to address the following: **(From list below, any authority not delegated to the superintendent requires a Board policy with review by legal counsel strongly recommended):**

- Options for in-person, remote, and hybrid learning, by grade level, with an emphasis on ensuring in-person instruction for students in the primary grades.
- The process for parents/guardians to sign up and discontinue participation in in-person, remote, and hybrid modes of learning.
- The completion of student work and achievement of academic milestones, proficiencies and other benchmarks.

- A description as to what extent remote and/or hybrid learning experiences will be synchronous to comparable in-person instructional activities.
- The provision for educational supports including teacher-student check-ins and other supports provided under the district's regular EST process.
- The provision of special education services and related services.
- A process for sharing information about student status (remote/in-person) with your school nutrition program so that they are able to provide meals at home or at school.
- Student participation in in-person extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports and music ensembles.

Responsibilities of the Superintendent

The superintendent shall provide a monthly status report to the Board.

Duration of Policy

This policy shall be in effect for the duration of the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and shall terminate automatically when the State of Emergency is lifted.

VSBA Version: 8/5/20

Date Warned: 8/13/20; 9/16/2020

Date Adopted:

Legal

Reference(s):

Rule 2312.1 requires:

Except as provided in Rule 2311.5 (Day of Mourning); the length of the school day shall be:

(a) for kindergarten, a minimum of two instructional hours. However, in any calendar week, five school days may be counted if the total number of hours of instructional time is equal to or exceeds 10 hours per week.

(b) for grades 1-2, a minimum of four instructional hours including recess, excluding lunch. However, in any calendar week, five school days may be counted if the total number of hours of instructional time is equal to or exceeds 20 hours, including recess, excluding lunch.

(c) for grades 3-8, a minimum of 5 1/2 instructional hours, including recess, excluding lunch. However, in any calendar week, five school days may be counted if the total number of hours of instructional time is equal to or exceeds 27 1/2 hours, including recess, excluding lunch.

(d) for grades 9-12, a minimum of 5 1/2 instructional hours, exclusive of the time allowed for recess and lunch. However, in any calendar week, five school days may be counted if the total number of hours of instructional time is equal to or exceeds 27 1/2 hours, exclusive of the time allowed for recess and lunch.

Rule 2312.2 provides exceptions to Length of School Day:

(a) Where the board of school directors has found it necessary to delay the opening of the school day by up to two hours or to send the pupils home after school has begun due to emergencies such as the outbreak of a contagious disease, unsafe building conditions, hazardous weather, high water, unsafe highways, or a fire, the day may be counted as a full day of school;

(b) Upon request of the board of school directors, the Commissioner may permit alternate methods of counting the cumulative instructional hours set forth in subsection 2311.4 of this section where: (1) overall, students do not lose instructional time; (2) students do not lose transportation to and from school or to other educational programs during the school day; (3) students do not lose access to related education programs such as technical or special education; and (4) it is otherwise in the interests of the students and the district.