



September 15, 2021

Good afternoon

Last night, the Board of Education approved two policies related to remote instructional needs during the pandemic.

The first, #6173, extends current homebound instruction to students who may have family members with medical concerns that prevent the child from coming to school. This policy applies to *long-term absences*. This instructional support will mirror the support provided students who are on homebound. We are currently working with impacted families on a case-by-case basis. Questions or concerns should be directed to our Special Education department (msierau@fairfieldschools.org).

The second, #6999, adds two pieces to our current distance learning policy. It is intended for *short-term* needs and applies only to those students who are absent due to a Health Department required absence. First, it does state that in the case of a local outbreak or contact-tracing concern a school may close to address mitigation needs. Our hope and goal is to avoid having to use this practice. Second, it provides for instructional support for students either who need to quarantine or who test positive but are still able to engage in schoolwork. Third, it provides teachers with the ability to mark a student as “present” based on the student’s engagement in a combination of (a) virtual classes, (b) virtual meetings, (c) activities on time-logged electronic systems, and (d) the completion and submission of assignments. The policy requires the administration to develop regulations to support continued student engagement.

We have worked over the past few weeks to develop the regulations detailed below. I want to thank Mr. Smoler, the FEA representatives, and the administrators who collaboratively developed an approach that best supports students, both those at home and those in person, to continue their learning.

These regulations will go into effect for any students in quarantine or isolation on Monday, September 20. Any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of these regulations should be directed first to your child’s teacher and then to the building administrator. If your child is struggling to engage in their work please reach out to your school counseling support staff.

Finally, prior to the passage of the policies and the adoption of the regulations we have had, at times, up to 60 students who were absent due to COVID-related issues. I know you join me in thanking every teacher, administrator, and staff member who stepped in to support those students so ably during this time. Our commitment to all our students is clear and resonates.

Take care,

Mike

Mike Cummings
Superintendent of Schools



Policy 6999 REGULATIONS

Supporting students with COVID related quarantines or isolation

The following expectations and guidelines will be in place to support students who must miss school for a Town of Fairfield Health Department directed absence due to a confirmed asymptomatic COVID positive case or close contact quarantine (“COVID Reason”). Our goal is to keep students academically and socially engaged in learning while they are unable to attend school in-person.

Teachers will have 24 hours to put these supports in place from the time they are notified that one of their students has been placed in a Fairfield Health Department directed quarantine or isolation.

K-5 Students absent due to a Health Department directed quarantine or isolation:

- Students will be included daily, through Google Meet, in the classroom morning meeting.
- Units of study for the K-5 curriculum will be created on a monthly basis.
- These units of study will include the core disciplines of language arts and math, as well as social studies, science, and health where applicable.
- The classroom teacher will, within 24 hours of the notification of a student’s absence, communicate to the child and their parents or guardians, as well as the district support instructor assigned to the grade level, expectations for the work to be completed in the units of study being sent home during the course of the student’s expected absence.
- In addition to the units of study, if appropriate, the classroom teacher will send work materials and/or books home for the absent student.
- The support instructor will establish meeting times for the student and communicate those times to the student, their parent or guardian, and the classroom teacher.
- The support instructor will
 - Meet daily with the student, either individually or in grade level groups
 - Provide academic support as needed through Google Meets and email communications
 - Correspond with the classroom teacher as needed
 - Monitor work completion and adjust workloads as needed in consultation with the classroom teacher
- The classroom teacher will be available for Google Meets with the student during before and after school times (wrap-around times) several times during the student's absence. These times will be communicated by the classroom teacher to the student and their parent or guardian. The Meet will be in place to provide academic support as well as face-to-face time with the classroom teacher.

6-12 Students absent due to a Health Department directed quarantine or isolation:

- Teachers will post relevant lesson materials and assignments in the class online Google classroom.



- Teachers will be available via their school .net email account to correspond with students and answer questions.
- For students who are out on a Health Department directed quarantine or isolation, teachers will choose at least one of the following four options as their primary method to support students. The selected approach will be included in the teachers' classroom policies and procedures so that students and parents know ahead of time how the student will be supported. Options may vary depending on classroom content, instructional approach, or student learning needs
 - The teacher will record their lessons and post them on Google classroom
 - The teacher will flip their classroom and provide lesson videos ahead of class times
 - The teacher will turn on the classroom cameras and provide live instruction. There will not be interaction between the student(s) in quarantine/isolation and the teacher or in-person students during these sessions.
 - Teachers will be available at least once per school day to meet through Google Meets for a period of at least 20 minutes. The purpose of the meeting is to review course content, address student questions, and provide learning supports.
- Students will make up assessments and, where applicable, hands-on activities like science labs, upon return to school.