

REMOTE LEARNING

“ Remote learning/education”-means and includes any instructional mode that is not in-person instruction including, but not limited to, correspondence, video-based, internet-based, online courses (e.g., Virtual Learning Academy Charter School “VLACS”), other remote instruction, or any combination thereof. It also includes hybrid instructional models that utilize elements of remote education and traditional instruction in any combination.

Under rules of the N.H. Department of Education, remote education may be offered only:

- (1) When inclement weather, makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction (i.e., remote learning day);
- (2) As an option for a parent/guardian or adult student making a request for remote education (e.g., online courses); or
- (3) As articulated in a parent-approved program approved by the local school board pursuant to Board policy IHB1.

A. District/School-Wide Remote Education During Inclement Weather.

When inclement weather makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction, the District or school may elect to provide instruction remotely, pursuant to Board policy IC.

B. Individual Participation in Remote Education.

The Board encourages students to take full advantage of remote education opportunities as a means of enhancing and supporting their education.

1. Extended Learning Opportunities and Alternative Learning Plans. Such opportunities will be implemented under the provisions set forth in Policy IHBH, Extended Learning Opportunities and Policy IHB1, Alternative Learning Plans.
2. High School Credit. If the course is to be taken for credit, then IK, Earning of High School Credit – Achievement of Competencies, will also apply. Students must have remote education courses approved by the school principal ahead of time in order to receive credit.
 - a. Although courses may be offered for the earning of credits/competencies, students cannot be required to take a remote course for required courses/achievement of required competencies. Rather, remote courses may be electives, or duplicate or equivalent of in-person options;
 - b. Remote learning options for courses or programs that are used as part of the 43 courses required for an approved high school shall be included in the school's program of studies (Ed 306.22(q)(5));
 - c. The District shall provide, where necessary, all equipment, software, and internet connectivity necessary to participate in district-based remote learning or alternative programs or learning opportunities that are to be counted toward the 43 courses required for an approved high school (Ed 306.22(q)(5)).
3. Pre-conditions for Enrollment in Independent Remote Learning Programs/Courses. The written approval of the building principal is required before a district student enrolls in a remote learning course or program that is intended to become part of their educational program. Students applying for permission to take a remote learning course/program must complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the academic preparation and maturity level needed to function effectively in a remote learning environment.
4. Approved Courses. Approved remote education courses must satisfy both state and local standards, be delivered by staff licensed in the state where the course originates; and contain provisions for feedback and monitoring of student progress. The district requires that a syllabus, including prerequisites, specific learning goals/activities, student evaluation criteria, and teacher responsibilities be submitted for review before the course is approved.

5. Student Enrollment Requirements. Students taking approved online courses must be enrolled in the district and must take the courses during the regular school day at the school site, unless the administration has granted approval for remote access based on special circumstances. Online courses may be taken in the summer under the same conditions as during the school year.
6. Staff Supervision. When students are participating in remote learning on school grounds during the school day, a teacher or other staff member will be assigned to provide general supervision, and to assist students having difficulty with remote learning.
7. Assessments and Progress Monitoring. The principal will assign a teacher to monitor student progress, grading of assignments, and testing.
8. Earning of Credit. Students earning credit for remote education courses shall be required to demonstrate achievement of applicable competencies and participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program. Credit for the course is not recognized until an official record of the final grade has been submitted to the principal or designee with feedback from the online teacher/educator.
9. Privacy and Confidentiality. Approved remote education courses must comply with all federal and state statutes pertaining to student privacy and to public broadcasting of audio and video. Confidentiality of student record Information will be maintained throughout the process. This includes information shared between school district representatives and the virtual school or online teacher, information shared between the school district or online teacher with students and parents, and information shared between school district representatives, the virtual school or online teacher with others.
10. Student Conduct. Board policy JICL-School District Internet Access for Students, as well as all Board policies and school rules and regulations will apply to and during all remote learning programs. Students participating in remote learning will also be subject to any policies or rules of any third-party program (e.g., VLACS, etc).

C. Educational Progress and Policy Violations.

If a student participating in remote education is not making educational progress, as determined by educational assessments, the option to participate in remote learning may be rescinded by the district. A parent or guardian may appeal this determination to the Superintendent for review. If the Superintendent upholds the determination, the parent/guardian has a right to appeal to the state board of education per N.H. Department of Education Rules Ed 200. A student shall remain in remote learning until the conclusion of the appeal. If the state board upholds the district's conclusion of lacking educational progress, the student shall immediately be disqualified from continued participation in the District's remote learning opportunities.

Students who violate any part of the policy or engage in any other activity that school authorities consider inappropriate are subject to disciplinary action consistent with Board policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

Legal References:

RSA 189:1, Days of School

RSA 189:24, Standard School

Ed. 306.04(b) (12), Remote Learning

Ed 306.1,5 School Year

Ed. 306.15F, Remote Learning

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

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Second Reading: March 25, 2008

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