

Remote Learning for Inclement Weather FAQ



Can remote learning be used in lieu of canceling school for inclement weather?

The short answer.

While state law does allow for up to 40 hours of remote learning for any student, the use of remote learning to provide learning services to all students at the school building-level should only be considered in extreme circumstances. In most cases, it would be difficult to ensure that all students and teachers are prepared to implement quality remote learning services in place of an inclement weather day or days. To be able to count building-level remote learning services toward the 1,116 annual School Term requirement, there would need to be a great deal of prior planning and record keeping. For this reason, KSDE recommends that this only be considered in extreme circumstances.

The long answer.

As passed during the 2021 Legislative Session, [K.S.A. 72-5180](#) states that:

- o Schools may provide up to 40 total hours of remote learning for any student. Students may attend through remote learning if it approximates the learning experience that would have taken place in the classroom.

KSDE recommends that building-level remote learning services only be considered in extreme circumstances.

What does it mean to “approximate the learning experience that would have taken place in the classroom?”

Daily meaningful contact by the student’s local teacher or teachers with each student (by either a telephone call or interactive video conference call) for the purpose of providing instruction and support and to ensure that the academic progress of the student was supported and monitored daily.

What records would the school need to verify remote learning?

Audit Requirements

KSDE auditors must verify the following items for any student attending through remote learning:

1. The district will maintain and provide a list of all students attending through remote learning, regardless of whether the student’s attendance was more or less than a total of 40 hours and regardless of whether it was approved by the local board. Data for each individual student will include the following:
 - a) extraordinary circumstance necessitating remote learning,
 - b) the total hours and the specific calendar days student attended through remote learning and
 - c) whether such attendance was full-time or part-time.

The list will be requested at audit and by KSDE as needed.

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Audit Requirements

2. Was such student enrolled on count day (9/20) of the current school year?
3. The student's school maintain and provide a daily log documenting student contact minutes and instructional engagement provided by the student's local teacher (by either a telephone call or interactive video conference call) with each student.
 - o The reason for the daily log is not for the sole purpose of taking daily attendance, but to provide instructional support and ensure that the academic progress of the student was monitored daily.
 - o This daily log will be requested at audit and by KSDE as needed.

Are records needed if the district is live-streaming a class to students?

If your district is live-streaming classes to students attending through remote learning, there is no need for the district to maintain a separate daily contact log because student attendance should be taken as normal by each local teacher during each live-streaming class session(s) attended by such students.

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