August 11, 2021

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Definition and Guidance for Instructional Delivery Types 2021-2022

After a complete school year of COVID-19 learning, it is important that a consistent and clear definition for available scope and delivery options, also known as learning preferences. The Alabama State Department of Education references and utilizes nationally recognized definitions for virtual, remote, and hybrid learning preferences. These definitions serve as guidance as local education agencies (LEAs) plan for the 2021-2022 school year in Alabama. By defining and clarifying these identified learning preferences, misconceptions are streamlined with available options for students.

The following definitions should be utilized in LEA planning and will be included in the transition that will go live August 2, 2021.

1. ***Full-Time Virtual Learning*** is typically asynchronous and a full-time method of instructional delivery with flexibility in pacing and completion of assignments within identified parameters. Attendance is determinized by evidence of indicators identified to equate to engagement participation and completion of assignments in a timely manner. Evidence of attendance and achievement are determined and agreed upon by all parties prior to enrollment in a virtual program. Learning management systems are often utilized.

Pursuant to Section 16-46A-1 – Adoption of policy governing virtual school program:

(a) Before the 2016-2017 school year, each local board of education shall adopt a policy providing, at a minimum, a virtual education option for eligible students in Grades 9-12, inclusive, beginning with that school year.

Any virtual school operating in this state that provides educational services to public school students shall comply with this chapter.

(b) The policy adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this chapter shall govern the virtual school program offered by the local board of education. The policy shall offer students in Grades 9-12, inclusive, an online pathway for earning a high school diploma and, at a minimum, shall include all of the following:

(1) The scope and delivery of virtual options.

(2) Student eligibility criteria for initial and continuing participation in the virtual program.

(3) Specific requirements for monitoring performance and testing protocol consistent with this chapter.

(4) Attendance requirements, if any.

(c) A local board of education shall not be required to utilize a state program or vendor for the provision of virtual school options.

2. **_Remote Learning_** occurs outside of the brick-and-mortar environment of a classroom. It may follow a traditional schedule with live lessons, logins, or engagements being mandatory. The instructional delivery format tends to be more synchronous than asynchronous and follows a traditional in-person format. The curriculum is typically teacher-created, and most students work at the same pace.

3. **_Hybrid Learning_** allows students to split time between face-to-face instruction and outside the "brick and mortar" of the school campus. Lessons are both paper/pencil and on-line and may be used flexibly within both environments. This learning preference may require a physical space as well as a learning management system.

It is important as these new learning preferences are implemented that LEAs have board policies to support various instructional deliveries and indicators identified as evidence of attendance and appropriate operational procedures for distribution and retrieval of technology. Questions regarding flexibility and waivers shall be directed to Mr. Terry Roller, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Support Services, at 334-694-4868 or by email at troller@alsde.edu.

To ensure LEA data are accurate as various learning environment "types" are implemented throughout the school, LEAs will be required to update the status of all students as changes in learning preferences occur with the transition to PowerSchool "Go Live" on August 2, 2021. PowerSchool has implemented a new screen that requires identification of the learning preference for each student enrolled in one of the three learning preferences listed above. Attached is a copy of the screenshot for a student that is currently unable to physically attend school and who is receiving remote instruction. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Full-Time Virtual Option of the non-traditional field has been removed due to the new screen implemented.

EGM/TR/RH

Attachment

cc:　　LEA Principals　　　　　　　　　　　LEA School Counselors
　　　　LEA Technology Coordinators　　　Mrs. Angela Martin
　　　　LEA Curriculum Directors　　　　　Mr. Terry Roller
　　　　LEA Student Support Services　　　Dr. Elisabeth Davis

FY21-2091

New Digital Equity & Learning Preferences

✖

Effective Date MM/DD/YYYY 🗓 *

Learning Preference Select Code ▾

Select Code
(L01) Full Time Virtual – Student is enrolled as a full time virtual student
(L02) Remote – Student is temporarily receiving remote instruction
(L03) Hybrid – Student is currently receiving blended remote and face to face instruction

Requested Timeframe

Requesting Parent/Guardian

100 characters left

Internet In Residence Select Code ▾

Internet Access Select Code ▾

Internet Performance Select Code ▾

Device Access Select Code ▾

Device Type Select Code ▾

Device Serial Number

100 characters left

Paper Learning Packets Select Code ▾

Comment

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