

**Policy IAC: Virtual Learning Days**

**Status:** DRAFT

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**Virtual Learning Days**

In the event of unplanned/unforeseen circumstances, the Jackson County School District may opt to utilize designated school-wide or district-wide virtual learning days throughout the year. Unforeseen circumstances include, but are not limited to, extreme weather, pandemics, illness, damage to a school, a water crisis, etc. The District may also allow individual students to utilize virtual learning on an as-needed basis in accordance with district policy. The District will ensure that all virtual learning days include the minimum 330 minutes of actual teaching as required by Mississippi law.

Teachers shall provide actual instruction to students during each virtual learning day and may not utilize asynchronous learning only. Lesson plans shall include daily synchronous/interactive instruction and dialogue and shall accurately denote synchronous or asynchronous portions as applicable. The District will ensure that students who access instruction virtually have instruction provided and access to the assigned teachers including any special services teachers/provides during the schedule time for each course of the 180 days. Virtual learners shall receive the equivalent amount of synchronous and asynchronous instruction as in-person students. All virtual learning will be held to the same standards as in-person learning.

All virtual students will be required to participate in the required statewide end-of-course assessments on campus. Virtual learning days cannot be used for the purpose of allowing students to remain off-campus to provide additional planning time, professional development opportunities, testing, or to attend athletic events.

Virtual learning may not be used to circumvent disciplinary practices, including but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion. Students remanded to alternative school campuses for disciplinary offenses or for participation in high school equivalency coursework may receive virtual instruction. If virtual instruction is not possible, these students shall be presented with face-to-face instruction instead.

At all times during virtual learning, all teachers, staff, and students will comply with student privacy and other requirements set out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**PARTICIPATION**

In order to participate in virtual learning, parents and students (if age-appropriate) shall sign a commitment that acknowledges receipt, acceptance of, and commitment to this policy pertaining to virtual learning.

If a course requires a virtual student to be on campus (ex. To give a speech or to present a project) that student will be required to be physically present on campus in order to meet that requirement.

**DEVICE USAGE**

Students participating in virtual learning shall use district issued devices in order to complete their work. Only school related activities shall be performed during school hours. Any use of district issued devices shall be in conformity with policy IJBD.

A student may be subject to discipline if he/or she violates the provisions of this or any other district policy.

**VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS NOTIFICATION**

The district will ensure students, parents, and staff are notified in advance of any virtual learning days so that students and staff are familiar with equipment, online platforms, and district-wide policies regarding student-issued devices.

The District will identify those individual students who do not have access to internet services and shall implement measures to ensure that all instruction is equivalent to his/her peers. Alternate plans will be used ONLY for those students who cannot access reliable internet.

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Every pupil of the district will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion or marital status. The district will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with a disability who need special education and, as appropriate, related services as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2007 (IDEA), Mississippi statutes, and the Mississippi Department of Education policies. A free appropriate public education will be provided to students with disabilities who are enrolled in the District and who are resign within the jurisdiction of the District. These services will be provided at no cost to the parent, will meet the standards of the Mississippi State Board of Education, and will stand in conformity with a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

IEP Committees will make decisions regarding virtual learning based upon what is best for each individual student. A process for conducting meetings pertaining to the evaluation and eligibility of students with disabilities along with a process for monitoring and documenting student progress and services delivered will be used by the district. Ongoing communication will be maintained at all times with families, teachers, and related service providers.

#### INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Districts shall provide sufficient notice (before the close of the prior school day) to staff and students for any weather-related or other unforeseen virtual days. When instances occur that make virtual learning impractical, the District shall either make up any missed days or use the days as weather days as allowed under Mississippi law and in accordance with policies AFC.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to support this policy in accordance with Mississippi law and SBE policy 9.3 and 56.2.

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