



## **S.B. 229 Expands Instructional Options for Schools**

SB 229 passed the General Assembly December 8, 2021. This bill is effective immediately and provides schools the flexibility to change instructional delivery based on student needs and general conditions.

Chartered nonpublic and community schools may operate during the 2021-22 school year under a blended learning model or the continuation of the 2020-21 remote learning plan **for parents requesting that option**. Requirements for both options have been revised somewhat so it's important that schools become familiar with both options and make any choice that works best for their students.

**Schools can choose to operate as usual, utilize blended learning or operate a remote learning model for families requesting that option. The choice is up to each individual school. Please take time to review the requirements to see if one of these options might work for your school.**

**Please note that the remote plan option requires notice to the Department of Education by December 15.**

### **Blended Learning Option**

Chartered nonpublic schools and community schools may implement a blended learning model for any portion of the 2021-22 school year. **If a blended model is implemented the school by April 30, 2022 shall submit to the Department of Education a declaration to implement or discontinue use of a blended learning model during the 2021-2022 school year.**

If a blended learning model is implemented schools must:

- (1) Ensure that students have access to the internet and to devices students may use to participate in online learning.** If a district or school determines that a student does not have appropriate access to the internet or a device, the district or school shall provide it at no cost to the student. Districts and schools shall provide a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles on each computer provided to students for instructional use.
- (2) Monitor and assess student achievement and progress and provide additional services if necessary to improve student achievement;**
- (3) Periodically communicate with parents or guardians regarding student progress;**
- (4) Report quarterly to the Department, in a manner determined by the Department the number of students participating in blended learning and the duration of such participation;**
- (5) By May 15, 2022, report to the Department both of the following:**

- (a) The total number of students engaged in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year by grade level;
- (b) The total number of students with disabilities engaged in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

Community schools using this option must obtain approval from their sponsor. Schools should also add an addendum to their sponsor - school contract to ensure compliance with blended learning requirements specific to community schools.

Blended learning definition now includes both online and noncomputer-based learning opportunities in addition to work on-site at school.

### **Remote Learning Option**

The governing authority of a chartered nonpublic or community school may adopt a resolution to continue to provide instruction using the school's remote learning plan submitted for the 2020-21 school year for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year to only those students whose parents or guardians submit a written request to the principal of the school building to which the student is assigned to specifically request the option.

**A school that adopts a resolution to continue to operate under a remote learning plan must notify the Department of Education no later than December 15, 2021.**

The decision to continue to offer remote instruction shall not be subject to approval by the Department.

Schools choosing to offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year must update its remote learning plan to meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) Meet all minimum school year requirements under section 3314.03 or 3313.48 of the Revised Code;
- (2) Ensure that students have access to the internet and to devices students may use to participate in online learning. If a district or school determines that a student does not have appropriate access to the internet or a device, the district or school shall provide it at no cost to the student. Districts and schools shall provide a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles on each computer provided to students for instructional use;
- (3) Track and document all student remote learning participation including online and offline activities;

- (4) Report student attendance based on student participation;
- (5) Monitor and assess student achievement and progress and provide additional services if necessary to improve student achievement;
- (6) Periodically communicate with parents or guardians regarding student progress;
- (7) Develop a statement describing the school's approach to addressing nonattendance and its compliance with truancy procedures and requirements;
- (8) Report to the Department of Education both of the following:
  - (a) The total number of students engaged in remote learning by grade level;
  - (b) The total number of students with disabilities engaged in remote learning.
- (9) Each school that continues to offer remote instruction shall post the school's remote learning plan on its web site and submit a copy to the Department.