

Resources Memo: COVID-19 How are state education agencies and districts tracking student attendance during remote learning?

Regional Educational
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From the National Center for Education Evaluation at IES

How are state education agencies and districts tracking student attendance during remote learning?

As schools are shifting to remote learning during closures, state education agencies and districts must decide on tracking student attendance. REL Central has compiled and categorized state and district policies on attendance. These policies have been gathered from state and district websites and remote learning plans and should not be considered exhaustive.

No Attendance Requirements

A number of state education agencies, including those in [Alabama](#), [Arkansas](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), and [Hawai'i](#), have suspended state requirements for reporting student attendance. [The Ohio Department of Education](#) will consider students to be in attendance during school closures, but attendance will not be used for calculating student enrollment. [District of Columbia Public Schools](#) is not taking attendance, and all students are considered present during the learn-at-home period.

Attendance Not Counted in Grading

[The New York City Department of Education](#) has adapted a policy that student attendance during remote learning cannot be used in calculating grades and that students cannot fail a course due to absences. However, schools are tracking attendance through “daily meaningful interactions” such as participation in online discussions, emails with teachers, or family member communication.

District Choice, State Required

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#) has allowed districts to create individual attendance policies, but attendance is still required.

Assignment Completion

[Harrison Public Schools](#) in New Jersey is providing daily assignments for students to complete. Completion of these assignments will count as attendance for the day. [Fargo School District](#) in North Dakota is counting attendance weekly, based on student completion of assigned weekly activities.

Various Learning Activities

[Boulder Valley School District](#) in Colorado is using a variety of means to count attendance at the secondary level. In addition to completing assignments, checking in with a teacher, participating in a whole-class videoconference, or posting information in Google Classroom or Schoology are ways for students to be considered in attendance.

Online Learning Portal Logins

[Miami-Dade County Public Schools](#) in Florida is using daily student logins to the student portal as evidence of attendance for the day. The district will call all students who fail to log in on the following day.

Attendance Forms

[Tenafly Public Schools](#) in New Jersey is using a Google Form for attendance. Students receive a link each day by email and are expected to complete the form by 10:00 a.m.

Remote Learning Plan Database

[The Center on Reinventing Public Education](#) has compiled and analyzed remote learning plans from 82 school districts. The database includes links to the plans.

Please contact REL Central if you have questions or need additional support:
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