

COVID-19 Considerations
for Reopening Schools:
Truancy

Matt Ross, Executive Advisor, Office of Finance and Operations

Important Points

- KDE understands that courts across the state treat truancy actions differently; including different thresholds for bringing actions.
- The department further understands that school districts have varying attendance policies.
- The intent of this guidance is not to establish a one size fits all policy but rather to set forth the expectations for student engagement when so many students are learning remotely.
- It is expected that districts will use all available appropriate means to ensure students don't get lost or forgotten during remote learning.
- This guidance has been reviewed by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Funding, ADA and Participation

- Emergency Regulation 702 KAR 3:270E promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in EO 2020-243 and in accordance with the June 24 Memo signed by Lt. Gov. Coleman - Temporarily suspends funding based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for SY 2020-21. Rather, funding shall be based on data selected pursuant to SB 177 (2020).
- 702 KAR 7:125E - Collection of Student Participation Rates
- Compulsory attendance (KRS Chapter 159) remains in effect – Memo
- Student Participation Rates Reported to KDE/LRC on October 15, January 15, and July 1 - 702 KAR 7:125E

Truancy – KRS 159.150

- Parents/guardians are required to send their children to school. KRS 159.010.
- Any student, “who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.” KRS 159.150(1)
- A local board of education may adopt reasonable policies that:
 - (a) Require students to comply with compulsory attendance laws;
 - (b) Require truants and habitual truants to make up unexcused absences;
 - (c) Impose sanctions for noncompliance; and
 - (d) Collaborate and cooperate with the Court of Justice, the Department for Community Based Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, regional community mental health centers, and other service providers to implement and utilize early intervention and prevention programs, such as truancy diversion, truancy boards, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution to reduce referrals to a court-designated worker. KRS 159.150(5)

Roles and Responsibilities

- Collect and enter student Participation Information in Infinite Campus (IC) for students learning in-person (attendance) and remotely (teacher/student interactions).
- Teacher Office Hours (May use Classified Staff to assist)
- Encourage and facilitate communication and collaboration between teachers, DPPs, FRYSC coordinators, and families.
- Enforce district compulsory attendance policies
- Including, documenting home conditions and intervention strategies attempted and if appropriate, after consultation with the court-designated worker, refer the case to the family accountability, intervention and response team (FAIR team).
- Home visits should be conducted per applicable district guidelines

Healthy at Sports Documentation

- <https://khsaa.org/special-programs/covid-19-information/covid-19-healthy-at-sports-documentation/>



Daily Participation and Non- Traditional Instruction Guidance for Re-Opening Schools

Guiding Question

How can this guidance support parents in understanding the shift from ‘attendance’ to ‘daily participation’?”

Not Reporting Attendance

- Districts will be receiving their funding using the 2019-2020 or 2018-2019 ADA data therefore daily attendance will not be reported.
- For the 2020-2021 School Year Kentucky school districts will record participation in the Infinite Campus (IC) for ALL students in lieu of recording attendance.
- This does not mean you won't be collecting attendance for students who are in-person. For safety reasons you will need to continue to be aware of their presence in the classroom. You will just not be reporting it.
- Since compulsory education is still required it is important to capture and be accountable for the engagement and delivery of instruction to all students, whether in person in the school building or remotely from home. That is why we will be recording Daily Participation

Defining Daily Participation

Daily Participation is the measure of the interactions between teachers and students.

- Those interactions will vary based on whether the student is in-person or is participating remotely in instruction.
- Participation is a measure of a student's engagement in the instructional process.
- It is NOT a measure of quality of student work. Grading practices determine quality.
- Remember that participation will be recorded for each instructional day in the district calendar, however the participation can be recorded on a weekly basis.

Defining “Non-Traditional Instruction”

701 KAR 7:125E defines non-traditional instruction as:

“Non-traditional instruction” means remote instruction in which the student is learning in a location other than the traditional classroom using digital or other alternative methods of learning.”

Meaning that non-traditional instruction is the term used for any situation in which a student, group of students, whole schools or districts are learning from a location other than the brick and mortar school building.

Types of Daily Participation

The recording of participation in Infinite Campus will be once a day and will be entered by teachers into IC.

Students Who are In-Person

Students who are attending in-person classes will be considered “participating” by their presence in the classrooms. It is important to remember that the existing requirements for collecting attendance for in-person students found in 701 KAR 7:125E are still in effect.

Types of Daily Participation

Students in non-traditional instruction

Daily participation for students learning through non-traditional instruction may be in real time during the school day or at times outside of normal school hours and include at least one of the following:

- One on one video communication or phone calls between teacher and student (or teacher and parent with smaller children or students with special needs);
- Group video communication or phone calls between the teacher and a whole class or between a teacher and smaller groups of students within a class;
- Student time logged into a learning management software system completing assignments;
- Submission of paper-based assignments for students in a non-digital, non-traditional setting.

NOTE: You will use the daily participation requirements for non-traditional instruction for all non-traditional instruction including full NTI Days and for any day a student participating remotely.

Recording Daily Participation in IC

Recording Daily Participation in Infinite Campus

With no attendance reporting in 2020-21, recording participation is required for ALL students in Infinite Campus.

- Participation will be recorded for every day in the school IC is currently providing support and training regarding the new Blended Learning functionality as well as the recording of participation in the system.
- Participation can be recorded “after the fact” to allow for teachers to enter weekly assignments (i.e. paper packets).

Reporting Daily Participation

District participation will be reported at the following times:

- October 2020
- January 2021
- July 2021

KDE will run a district participation report from IC and will be report that data through the Kentucky Department of Education website and to the Legislative Research Commission