



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 29, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent *DDC*
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports
Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Division of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Pupil Accounting for the 2021-22 School Year

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing an update on virtual learning, day and hour requirements, and attendance requirements based on revisions made by the state legislature to the state school aid act as reflected in [Public Act 48 of 2021](#).

Virtual Learning

With the new school year rapidly approaching, local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), have been working to ensure that they can offer the flexible and virtual educational opportunities that families may request for the 2021-22 school year.

MDE can confirm that virtual learning under section 21f of the school aid act remains an option for the upcoming school year. Additionally, section 21f allows districts to provide students with the opportunity to receive 100 percent of their instruction "separated from their instructor or teacher of record by time or location, or both."

Districts are not required to receive approval, or a waiver, from the Michigan Department of Education to offer students a virtual option.

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Day and Hour Requirements

For the 2020-21 school year, section 101 of the state school aid act (MCL 388.1701) was amended providing flexibility around the day and hour requirements to allow districts to measure the amount of instruction provided in a non-linear way.

For the 2021-22 school year, those flexibilities introduced during the pandemic have been removed. As such, districts must schedule 180 days and 1,098 hours of instruction unless the district satisfies an exception that otherwise exists in section 101.

Attendance Requirement

The attendance requirement has been amended in section 101 from what existed during the 2020-21 school year. For the 2021-22 school year, districts will need to measure attendance daily as was required by law prior to the pandemic. As such, districts will need to have at least 180 days where district-wide attendance was at least 75% to avoid a deduction in state aid payments. As in past years, if the district reschedules a day of instruction by adding a day to the end of the calendar, the attendance requirement for that day is 60%.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to Brian Ciloski at CiloskiB@michigan.gov or Jessica Beagle at BeagleJ1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors