

March 12, 2020

Waivers and Funding

Closure

In the event schools are closed, the current policy regarding missed school days still applies to LEAs at or above the 75,600 operational minute requirement (or 180 days for charter schools on a 180 day calendar). Generally, the first two missed days must be made up using bad weather make up days or by using built in or additional minutes, prior to the granting of waivers, up to the 4,200 minute waiver cap, per Section 3.8.2 of the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#) (SAAH).

If an LEA has a school closure based on COVID-19 related concerns that cannot be accommodated by the above mechanism or other options available to the district, the district may seek additional minute waivers from the agency. Those waivers would be granted as long as the district commits to supporting students instructionally while at home. An attestation will be required to be submitted with the waiver (see below for more information about the attestation, and options to help support instruction at home).

In addition, if a charter LEA intends to provide online education or instruction while at home, they are not required to submit a non-expansion amendment requesting the commissioner of education to approve a request for implementation of changing the instructional program to include remote instruction as is normally required in accordance with [19 TAC §100.1033\(c\)](#).

Absences

If an LEA is experiencing low attendance due to COVID-19 related concerns, rather than illness, the district may also use the attestation related to educational support to count students absent from campus grounds as present for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) purposes. For information on how to record this in your attendance system, see the section in this guidance related to PEIMS data reporting.

Attestation

As noted above, there are two different attestations:

- [Instructional Continuity Attestation While Open](#) (PDF)
- [Instructional Continuity Attestation While Closed](#) (PDF)