

# Kentucky Department of Education

## Update on COVID-19: SEEK and Attendance

Kentucky Board of Education  
July 10, 2020



# COVID-19 and P-12 Education

The governor's executive orders and actions of the General Assembly through [Senate Bill 177](#) and the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) have worked to provide the support and relief necessary for local school districts to marshal resources to meet the needs of our students, their families, district staff and communities across the state.



# Senate Bill 177 (2020 Regular Session)

Senate Bill 177 (Sen. Kerr) provided emergency relief for school districts during the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 for the 2019-2020 school year.

- ▶ Provided an unlimited number of nontraditional instruction (NTI) days, which allowed virtual or distance learning.
- ▶ Required that students receive a minimum of 1,062 instructional hours, less the amount of instructional time that could be waived.
- ▶ Allowed a school district to reach 1,062 instructional hours by adding time to the day.
  - A day could not exceed seven hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received approval from the Commissioner of Education for an innovative alternative calendar.
  - A school district could schedule instructional days on Saturdays.
  - A local board of education could submit a plan to the Department of Education demonstrating how 1,062 instructional hours would be completed.



# Senate Bill 177 (2020 Regular Session)

Senate Bill 177 also set forth alternate attendance provisions that local school districts could use when calculating their average daily attendance used in SEEK fund determinations for the 2019-2020 school year.

“Notwithstanding any other statute or regulation to the contrary, for school year 2019-2020, school districts may, when submitting the Superintendent’s Annual Attendance Report, substitute attendance data for school year 2018-2019 for attendance data for school year 2019-2020. If a school district submits data for school year 2018-2019, this data shall be utilized to calculate the average daily attendance that will be used in calculating Support Education Excellence in Kentucky funds and any other state funding based in whole or in part on average daily attendance for the district.”



## Attendance and Funding Goals for the 2020-2021 School Year

Unfortunately, no one could predict how this ever-changing and unprecedented pandemic would unfold. Senate Bill 177 only applied to the 2019-2020 school year.



# Attendance and Funding Goals for the 2020-2021 School Year

- ▶ With the General Assembly out of session and the provisions of SB 177 (2020) only applicable to the 2019-2020 school year, the department relied on funding provisions outlined in SB 177 to create the funding structure for the 2020-2021 school year.
- ▶ This allows for the funding structure to be:
  - Temporary
  - Explainable
  - Flexible
  - Predictable
  - Verifiable
  - Familiar
- ▶ It does not incentivize or discourage decisions for in-person or remote instruction.





**During COVID-19:**

**Student Participation  
and Funding Calculations  
for the 2020-2021 School Year**



# School Year 2020-2021

- ▶ Maintain the same AADA-related data choices that districts made previously
- ▶ Mirrors provisions in SB 177 by temporarily decoupling attendance-driven funding to allow for participation
- ▶ District calendar/attendance decisions not impacted by funding







# Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI)

# Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI)

The program began as a pilot in 2011, then went statewide in the 2014-2015 school year.

[Senate Bill 177](#) provided an unlimited number of NTI days, which included virtual or distance learning.

At a special KBE meeting on March 18, the board granted a blanket waiver to the NTI regulation so districts not currently participating in the NTI program could go through an abbreviated application process and explain how they would deliver quality, non-traditional instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year.

[KDE's Emergency NTI Guidance for schools/districts](#)



# COVID-19 and School Year 2019-2020

## NTI

- ▶ In the spring of 2020, the General Assembly passed SB 177 allowing for, among other things, districts to use unlimited NTI days during the spring of 2020. SB 177 did not extend past the spring of 2020.
- ▶ In addition, the KBE waived the application deadline requirement, allowing all 172 districts to participate in NTI with an approved application.
- ▶ During the COVID-19 closure, 6,240 NTI days were used to provide instruction to students.



# COVID-19 and School Year 2019-2020 NTI Participation

- ▶ During the COVID-19 emergency in the spring of 2020, districts collected and submitted weekly district-level participation information to KDE based on participation information submitted by teachers at the local level.
- ▶ Participation rates were above 90% for the spring 2020 closure.



# COVID-19 and School Year 2020-2021 NTI

- ▶ For the 2020-2021 school year, ALL Kentucky public school districts have been approved for the NTI program.
- ▶ It also is worth noting that in their 2020-2021 applications, many districts shifted their primary NTI delivery approach from paper-based to a digital delivery.
- ▶ Many districts are using federal funds through the CARES Act to provide more devices and hotspots to students who need access.



# COVID-19 and School Year 2020-2021

## NTI Participation

- ▶ Participation will be used as the measure for ALL students during the 2020-2021 school year, not just for NTI.
- ▶ Students who are learning in person will have their physical presence count as their participation.
- ▶ Students who are in NTI situations, whether part time or full time, will have participation recorded by teachers using a variety of types of interactions, including, but not limited to:
  - One-on-one video chats or phone calls between teacher and student (or teacher and parent with smaller children or students with special needs);
  - Group chats with teacher and whole class or groups of students within a class;
  - Time spent on learning management system (e.g. Google Classroom) assignment completion; and
  - Submission of instructional packets (for paper-based students).



# Anticipated Reporting Process

- ▶ Districts will report in-person and non-traditional instruction participation through Infinite Campus.
- ▶ District participation will be reported in October 2020, and January and July 2021.
- ▶ District participation will be posted to the KDE website and reported to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC).
- ▶ KDE will support districts by providing staff to assist with how to collect, record and report “participation.”





# Questions or Comments



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