



## COVID-19 Guidance: Procedures for Continuous Learning

### Introduction

The Governor has determined that it is in the public health interest of the state for Iowa schools to remain closed through April 30, 2020. To help districts and nonpublic schools accommodate student and family needs as flexibly as possible at this time, the Iowa Department of Education is providing further guidance on school closures and continuous learning.

In prior guidance, the Department provided all Iowa accredited nonpublic schools and public districts with two continuous learning options, and those continue to be in place. A complete explanation of each is available in the [Continuous Learning guidance](#).

<b>Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities</b>	<b>Required Educational Services</b>
<p>This may include paper packets, teleconferencing, online instruction or other outreach activities.</p> <p>Student participation is voluntary, and no grading or credit is given. Enrichment opportunities require more than posting lists of activities students and families can do if they want to - schools need to engage with learners.</p>	<p>Continuous learning through the provision of approved educational services ensures that academic work is equivalent in effort and rigor to typical classroom work. All students are required to participate, attendance is taken, work is graded, and credit granted.</p> <p>Typically, instruction is provided through some type of online learning. Hybrid models of learning involving some online learning and other methodologies like paper packets are also available. These services must be approved by the Iowa Department of Education. The Department advises schools to take a flexible and lenient approach to attendance and truancy at this time.</p>

## Requirements

All public districts and accredited nonpublic schools are required to indicate which method of continuous learning they will use from April 13 through April 30 by submitting their responses in the CASA system no later than April 10. Districts and accredited nonpublic schools may choose not to offer continuous learning, in which case the Department will follow up to ensure that missed days of instruction are made up. The total required hours or days of instruction will be reduced by those already waived by the legislature.

Districts and accredited nonpublic schools may choose to provide Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities without any additional approval from the Department. If a district or nonpublic school chooses this option, they must indicate their choice by April 10 in the CASA system and submit a brief description of the opportunities they will offer. This information will be collected by the Department but not approved or denied.

If a public district chooses to provide Required Educational Services the district must submit the Expedited Application to Provide Continuous Educational Services in CASA by April 10.

Accredited nonpublic schools may decide to provide Required Educational Services without applying to the Department for authority. Nonpublic schools are required to indicate this choice by April 10 in the Department's CASA system.

Any nonpublic school or district in Iowa can use the newly developed [Template for Continuous Learning](#) to determine where to start and what to consider as they offer opportunities and services to students.

Please note that any district or accredited nonpublic school may combine Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities and Required Educational Services for different grade levels in any way that best serves the needs of their students. Districts and nonpublic schools are also welcome to begin with Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities and move to Required Educational Services later. The application will remain open in CASA.

The Department will also send a survey to all nonpublic schools and districts in the next several days to assess statewide needs for assistance that can be met by the Department and the AEA's.

The table below describes the options available to districts and accredited nonpublic schools. **All CASA submissions will be open and available for districts and nonpublic schools in the COVID-19 folder no later than April 6.**

	<b>No Continuous Learning</b>	<b>Voluntary Educational Enrichment Opportunities</b>	<b>Required Educational Services</b>
Deadline for decision	April 10 in CASA	April 10 in CASA	April 10 in CASA
Application required	No	Public Districts: No, but the district must provide a brief description of what is being provided in CASA. This can apply to all grades served or only selected grades.  Nonpublic schools: No, but the school must provide a brief description of what is being provided in CASA. This can apply to all grades served or only selected grades.	Public Districts: Yes, in CASA. This can apply to all grades served or only selected grades.  Nonpublic schools: No.
Instructional days/hours waived	No. The time already waived by the legislature remains waived, but additional time will need to be made up.	Yes.	Yes.
Other required or recommended steps	Recommend schools use a template for planning to return to school. (To be released.)	Recommend schools and districts use the Template for Continuous Learning	Recommend schools and districts use the Template for Continuous Learning