

# Temporary Permission to Provide Primarily Continuous/Remote Learning (Optional)

Des Moines Independent

State Reviewed - Denied

(Status last updated by meredith.macquigg@iowa.gov on 12/30/2020)

## Information

Department of Education and Public Health guidelines recommend the use of primarily remote instruction under the following circumstances. You are welcome to apply even if you do not meet these guidelines but have other data to support your application.

- 15% positivity in the county on average over the past 14 days AND
- 10% absenteeism among students expected for in-person learning

OR

- 20% positivity in the county on average over the past 14 days

Only the Departments of Education, in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health, can make the determination and provide temporary authorization to move to 100% online or remote learning. This plan is fluid and subject to change as more information becomes available.

Things you can do without permission from the Department:

- Schools can immediately transition to remote learning for up to 48 hours while waiting for a waiver decision.
- Because the 50-percent in-person instruction requirement is based on a two-week period, schools typically providing full-time in-person instruction can also move to remote learning for up to five days without needing approval.
- Schools can also move one or more grade levels or sections of a building to remote instruction without Department approval. A school is a building if it has its own building number.

## Circumstance Requiring Temporary Continuous/Remote Learning

Temporary Permission to Provide Primarily Continuous/Remote Learning is being sought for

- the entire public school district
- one or more buildings within the public school district
- a state accredited nonpublic school

Which of the following best describes the amount of time that students will receive online only instruction?

If you are submitting an application for one or more buildings in a school district, please indicate the percent of online instructional time along with the name of the building in the question above.

**IMPORTANT** -If a district or school chooses to use primarily remote instruction, they are required to temporarily cease in-person extracurricular activities for the duration of the period requested if they completely cease in-person instruction and go 100% online/virtual. The decision to offer activities outside of an approved waiver for 100% online learning is determined at the local level.

- More than 50 but less than 100 percent of instruction will be delivered online.
- 100 percent of instruction will be delivered online.

Please enter the date that you propose primarily continuous/remote learning will begin.

1/4/2021



Waivers are granted for 14 calendar days to begin on the date entered.

Districts and school are able to operate primarily online as needed within that time period.

Requests for an extension should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the start date using the "Request Reopen" button in the bottom right corner of the screen.

What was the county's average positivity over the past 14 days?

12.1

Please enter the percentage to one decimal point.

What is your current or anticipated absentee rate among students for in-person learning?

15.8

Please enter the percentage to one decimal point.

How was your current or anticipated absentee rate among students for in-person learning calculated?

From the Department's [Attendance and Absenteeism Guidance Document](#)

- Official attendance is one type of data that can be used by the district to determine absenteeism rates for the purpose of requesting permission to temporarily move to primarily remote learning.

- The district may choose to additionally include all COVID-19 related absenteeism from in-person instruction, such as students who are in quarantine or isolation and are required to learn remotely when they normally would have attended in-person, in their request if it is important in their context.
- The explanation should note which student groups are being included as absent for the purpose of the request

The absenteeism rate is 15.82%.  
 This is the total number of days absent for all students receiving in-person instruction for the days that they are to be in school divided by the total number of in-person days provided.

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**Optional Upload** - Please upload any relevant information or supporting documentation.

**File Uploaded:**  
[DMPS Waiver Application 122820.pdf](#)  
 Uploaded on: 12/28/2020

Do not upload any personally identifiable information. The application and any supporting documentation is available to the public on the [Department's website](#).

## Provision of Temporary Continuous/Remote Learning

If the application for temporary permission is approved, how will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that all students with IEPs are provided with FAPE during the time the district/school is providing services primarily online?

We started our special education staff contracts early for the 20-21 school year in order to review each special education student's IEP and arrange for appropriate in-person, on-site instruction for those students that require in-person instruction to meet FAPE requirements. We will continue to serve over 2,000 students with in-person instruction in various programs, including students with IEPs, 504 plans, etc.

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If the application for temporary permission is approved, how will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that students who require mental health or health services still have access to these services during the time the district/school is providing services primarily online?

The district has revamped its MTSS system with virtual instruction in mind. New metrics have been established to gauge student engagement; additional counselors have been added to secondary schools; and, in large part, we have taken what we created for SEL services in our two year-old virtual campus and expanded it district-wide for students and staff that would otherwise not be operating in a virtual environment. Additional documents can be added if needed for further clarification.

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**If the application for temporary permission is approved, how will the district or accredited nonpublic school ensure that students with 504 plans continue to receive services?**

Staff responsible for administration of 504 plans returned to work earlier than normal for the FY 21 school year in order to review and, when needed, rewrite both IEPs and 504 plans on a student by student basis. Just as it the case with special education students, students with 504 plans will be provided with in-person instruction as necessary to meet their FAPE requirements and transportation will be provided for students needing it.

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**If the application for temporary permission is approved, how will the district continue to provide meals to students?**

DMPS has a long history of providing meals to thousands of students throughout the year. We will continue to provide meals to all students that qualify for them in two ways: pick up of meals at multiple sites throughout the community, and for a smaller number of students we will provide delivery of meals to their homes on an as needed basis.

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**If the application for temporary permission is approved, how will the district provide access to instructional materials and services for students who do not have access to the internet?**

Just as DMPS did in the spring, the district has provided a hard-wired broad band connection or a personal "hot-spot" to all families that do not already have internet service in their homes. DMPS has also provide a laptop or notebook computer to every K-12 student. Printed materials to supplement online instruction will continue to be provided and delivered to students' homes throughout the period of remote instruction.

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**If the application for temporary permission is approved, what process will you use to communicate with parents/families on educational services and changes in delivery models?**

DMPS will use a combination of the following modes of communication to stay in constant contact with our families:  
SchoolCNXT - a communication platform that allows the district to communicate with families in their native language  
InfiniteCampus Messenger - a platform that allows the district to communicate with families in their preferred method of communication: phone, text or e-mail

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