District Name: Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District

Section: J Students

Policy Code: JBDE Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning

Policy:

Reporting Attendance for Virtual Learning

The Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District will operate on one of three learning models, or any combination thereof, during the 2020-2021 school year, depending on health department recommendations and statistical data related to the spread of COVID-19. These options consist of a traditional (in-person) model, a hybrid (mix of traditional and virtual learning) model, and a virtual (completely online/distance learning) model.

Definitions

Synchronous Instruction – Model that involves two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus.

Asynchronous Instruction – Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time.

Asynchronous Offline Mode – Model that is typically used for students who do not have access to content via an electronic device and who are present for class off-site, completing assignments via pencil and paper.

Student Attendance

Student attendance data will be collected and reported in accordance with state and the Mississippi Department of Education requirements. Detail of the amount and type of instruction being provided shall be given. The collection and reporting of student attendance may vary depending on which learning model is in place in order to account for the changes in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on a waiver granted by the State Board of Education for MS Code 37-13-67 and Process Standard 13.1 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2019, districts are required to provide a minimum of 240 instructional minutes per day to students for the 2020 – 2021 school year. The daily instructional minutes need not be consecutive, but shall occur within the same day. Minutes may be reduced to allow for altered transportation schedules, health screenings, class transitions, modified food service schedules, and other activities to maximize health and safety of staff and students.

Student attendance data will be collected and reported specific to each learning model as follows:

Traditional School Model – Daily in-person attendance for traditional students will be collected and reported as follows:

Consistent with existing regulations, a student will be marked as present or absent in the Local SIS (Student Information System) on a daily basis based upon hours present at school.

Absent students will be entered as either excused or unexcused consistent with MS Code, MDE State Board Policy, and district policy.

Unexcused absences will result in the same reporting of truancy referrals.

Attendance will be reported to MSIS (Mississippi Student Information System) on a monthly basis.

Hybrid School Model – The hybrid model consists of a combination of both traditional and virtual instruction. The district will designate in MSIS which days of attendance are counted via which mode (daily or weekly).

Attendance for traditional instructional days will be recorded and reported for each student according to the procedures outlined above under Traditional School Model.

Attendance for virtual instructional days will be recorded and reported for each student according to the procedures outlined below underneath the Virtual School Model.

Virtual School Model – The virtual model applies to all students attending school on the virtual school model as well as all students attending school on virtual days under the hybrid school model. Under this model, students will be assigned a minimum of 4 hours (240 minutes) of school work. Students will be marked as absent if they fail to meet the required minimum of 240 minutes as outlined below:

Students with reliable internet connectivity participating in the Digital-Virtual Mode (Synchronous Online) will be marked as present or absent for each school day on a daily basis and reported in SIS daily. Reports will be made in MSIS on a monthly basis. In order to be marked present, students must meet the following criteria that equals a minimum of 240 minutes of daily instruction:

1. Student attends scheduled daily virtual interactions with district faculty/staff (time

engaged with faculty/staff will count towards required 240 minutes of daily attendance), AND

1. Student is authenticated and engaged in accessing software, completing daily

assignments, and participating in required activities with the district’s learning management system.

Students with reliable internet connectivity participating in the Digital-Virtual Mode (Asynchronous Online) will be marked as present or absent for each school day on a daily basis and reported in SIS daily. Reports will be made in MSIS on a monthly basis. In order to be marked present, students must meet the following criteria that equals a minimum of 240 minutes of daily instruction:

1. Student attends scheduled weekly virtual interactions, one-on-one or in groups, with district faculty/staff (time engaged with faculty/staff will count towards required 240 minutes of daily attendance), AND/OR
2. Student is authenticated and engaged in accessing software, completing daily

assignments, and participating in required activities with the district’s learning management system.

Students with reliable internet connectivity participating in the Digital-Virtual Mode (Asynchronous Offline) will be marked as present or absent for each school day on a weekly basis and reported in SIS weekly. Reports will be made in MSIS on a monthly basis. In order to be marked present, students must meet the following criteria that equals a minimum of 240 minutes of daily instruction:

1. Student attends daily/weekly virtual interactions, one-on-one or in groups, with district faculty/staff (time engaged with faculty/staff will count towards required 240 minutes of daily attendance), AND/OR
2. Student is authenticated and engaged in accessing software, completing daily

assignments, and participating in required activities with the district’s learning

management system.

Students without a reliable internet connectivity participating in the District Learning Packets Mode (Asynchronous Offline Mode) will be marked as present or absent for each school day on a weekly basis and reported in SIS weekly. Reports will be made in MSIS on a monthly basis. Students will be marked present if they meet any combination of the criteria listed below that equals a minimum of 240 minutes of daily instruction:

1. Student completes daily assignment in learning packet (will count toward required 240 minutes of daily attendance), AND
2. Student attends scheduled daily interactions, one-on-one contact between students and school staff, to provide daily evidence of engagement with learning packet materials.

Dual Enrollment

When dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate education program funding purposes, in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which the student attends high school. Therefore, during dual credit class periods on days when the college schedule does not align with the district’s schedule, students will not be counted as absent.

LEGAL REF: Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-1-3, 37-13-91, and 37-151-5(j); State Board of Education Chapter 9, Rule 9.2.