



Fact Sheet

Remote Learning

Revised: August 16, 2021



The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a top priority as schools are reopened.

Remote learning will be offered, although in a different format than was offered last year. The format will be dependent upon enrollment. We do encourage all families to return students to in-school, in-person learning. In the event of remote learning occurring, [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164](#) will continue to provide direction to school boards to ensure a consistent approach is followed.

In a Remote Learning Model, students will continue to receive 300 minutes of instruction per day through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. Students and parents will be provided with a daily schedule or timetable that includes 300 minutes of learning opportunities, with a combination of in the moment live learning with an educator online and independent learning activities. Programming will be based on the full Ontario curriculum.

Minimum Requirements for Synchronous Learning

The table below outlines the minimum amount of time per day that students, depending on their grade level, will be provided with “in the moment live learning with their virtual educator” as part of their schedule.

Division	Grade Level of Students	Daily Minimum Synchronous Learning Time Requirement *
Elementary	Kindergarten	180 minutes (3 hours a day)
	Grades 1 to 3	225 minutes (3.75 hours a day)
	Grades 4 to 8	225 minutes (3.75 hours a day)
Secondary	Grades 9 to 12	120 minutes for each 150 minute class

* This is in addition to the independent learning times.

The synchronous learning time requirements outlined in the table above may be divided into shorter periods throughout the school day. For example, a child in Kindergarten may participate in an opening exercise for 10 minutes with their whole class, as well as a combination of whole-group and small-group sessions throughout the school day, and a 10-minute closing exercise with their class at the end of the school day.

It is expected that synchronous learning will be provided for large and small groups of students each day, in a manner similar to in-person classroom teaching. Synchronous learning time may include students working independently and in small groups while engaged in a virtual learning with the educator overseeing their learning and available for questions. The synchronous learning requirements are a part of the 300-minute instructional day during which educators remain available to students.



Fact Sheet

Student Attendance and Safety

- Student attendance will be taken daily at the elementary level and per course at the secondary level.
- In cases where a student is unable to participate in a synchronous learning session – for example, their device may be shared with a parent in the home – educators should be informed, and they should make curriculum and assessment accommodations on an individual basis.
- Attendance counsellors may be used to further support student attendance, engagement, and well-being.
- Educators will follow school board-established procedures related to online safety, privacy, and cyber security. (See *Synchronous Learning – Best Practices in Virtual Environments* Fact Sheet)

Access to Remote Learning Devices – such as Laptops or Tablets – and the Internet

Local school principals will work collaboratively with parents to ensure that all students have access to remote learning devices and the Internet during remote learning.

Process for Exemption from Synchronous Learning

School boards will allow for students to be exempted from the minimum requirements for synchronous learning on an individual basis. Requests for an exemption must be made in writing and submitted to the local school Principal.

To support meaningful access to education, alternative learning approaches will be put in place for all exempted students – for example, correspondence, print, or broadcast media instruction that is based on the individual student's needs and circumstances. Additional supports for parents should also be considered. Exempted students will still be provided with a daily schedule or timetable in accordance with the **300-minute** instructional day.

This Fact Sheet has been designed to provide information for school communities considering the changes required by COVID-19. For any questions, concerns, or accommodations, please contact your child's school principal.

*** Adapted from the Ministry of Education "Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164"*