



COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools

July 20, 2020

Daily Participation and Non-Traditional Instruction

For the 2020-2021 school year, Kentucky school districts will record participation in Infinite Campus (IC) for ALL students in lieu of recording attendance. Districts will be receiving their funding using the 2019-2020 or 2018-2019 average daily attendance data, therefore daily attendance will not be reported. However, compulsory education still is required, and therefore it is important to capture and be accountable for the engagement and delivery of instruction to all students, whether in person in the school building or remotely from home.

In addition, the term non-traditional instruction (NTI) is an umbrella term for instruction that occurs in places other than the traditional classroom. It includes the official Non-Traditional Instruction Program outlined in KRS 158.070(9) and 701 KAR 7:150 that relates to school closures (NTI days) as well as any other day a student is receiving their instruction remotely.

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Defining Daily Participation and Non-Traditional Instruction

“Daily participation” is the measure of the interactions between teachers and students. Those interactions will vary based on whether the student is learning in person or is participating remotely in instruction. Participation is a measure of a student’s engagement in the instructional process. It is NOT a measure of quality of student work. Grading practices determine quality. Remember that participation will be recorded for each instructional day in the district calendar. However, the participation can be recorded on a weekly basis.

“Non-traditional instruction” means remote instruction in which the student is learning in a location other than the traditional classroom using digital or other alternative methods of learning. NTI is the term used for any situation in which a student, group of students, whole schools or districts are learning from a location other than the brick and mortar school building.



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NTI Days and Other Types of Non-Traditional Instruction

It's important to remember that in addition to a formal NTI Day, there are going to be other types of non-traditional instruction that don't require the claiming of an NTI Day.

NTI Days

If the district will be closed and all students will be learning remotely, then the district will claim an NTI Day per 701 KAR 5:150. The district will not claim an NTI day for any other instances of a portion of students learning remotely. For the 2020-2021 school year, districts have unlimited NTI days, and those days can be used for COVID related closures or more regular uses of NTI Days such as weather or other health or safety measures.

Other types of non-traditional instruction

Districts will not claim NTI Days for students who are learning remotely in any other non-traditional situation. Examples of other uses of non-traditional instruction would include:

- Full-Time Virtual School (FTVS) – student's primary enrollment is at a full-time virtual school or academy. The school/academy is a separate A1 or A5 program and the student is instructed by a teacher assigned to the virtual school/academy and not their regular assigned teacher(s).
- School-Based Virtual (SBV) – Same as FTVS except the student primary enrollment is their assigned school but they are engaged in full-time virtual learning. SBV could be a "school within the school" model with teachers designated as virtual teachers or it could be virtual instruction facilitated by regular classroom teachers.
- Blended Learning (BL) – This is a non-traditional option where a district is doing a hybrid model in which students are being instructed in-person on some days and remotely on some days. The student remains enrolled at their assigned school.
- Partial School Closure – This is still non-traditional instruction, however NTI Days are not used for situations where less than the entire district is doing remote learning. If a single school or group of schools requires a closure, but the entire district is not closed, those students in those schools would be SBV as outlined above.

NOTE: For the 2020-2021 school year, districts can identify pre-determined NTI days in their district calendar. In the past, NTI days would not be identified in the district's original calendar. As an example, if your district is going to use an A-B blended model and ALL students will be learning remotely on Fridays, you can identify Fridays as NTI days in your original district calendar.



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Types of Daily Participation

The recording of participation in Infinite Campus will be once a day and will be entered by teachers.

Students Who are Learning In Person

Students who are attending in-person classes will be considered “participating” by their presence in the classrooms. It is important to remember that for safety reasons, the existing requirements for recording attendance for in-person students found in 701 KAR 7:125E still are in effect.

Students in Non-traditional Instruction

Daily participation for students learning through non-traditional instruction may be in real time during the school day, or at times outside of normal school hours, and include at least one of the following:

1. One-on-one video communication or phone calls between teacher and student (or teacher and parent with smaller children or students with special needs);
2. Group video communication or phone calls between the teacher and a whole class or between a teacher and smaller groups of students within a class;
3. Student time logged into a learning management software system completing assignments; or
4. Submission of paper-based assignments for students in a non-digital, non-traditional setting.

NOTE: You will use the daily participation requirements for all non-traditional instruction, including full NTI days and for any day a student is participating remotely.

Recording Daily Participation in Infinite Campus

With no attendance reporting in 2020-2021, recording participation is required for ALL students in Infinite Campus.

As a reminder, you cannot record participation during the year in IC for any student who has been set up using the Virtual/Performance Based functionality in IC. Like attendance, participation for each day will be granted upon successful completion of the course (passing grade). You will have to record daily participation for any student in a Virtual/Performance Based course using a mechanism outside IC and report it separately to KDE for mid-year reporting. It is highly recommended that you use the Blended Learning functionality in IC for all virtual options you will be providing this fall.

IC is currently providing support and training regarding the new Blended Learning functionality as well as the recording of participation in the system.



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Reporting Daily Participation

District participation will be reported at the following times:

- October 2020
- January 2021
- July 2021

KDE will run a district participation report from IC and will be report that data through the Kentucky Department of Education website and to the Legislative Research Commission

(KDE:OCIS:DC)(COMM:jg,tm)