

Jackson County School District

Special Meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2021 - 5:00 PM

Our District Office Board Room

4700 Colonel Vickrey

VANCLEAVE, MS 39565

Jackson County School District

Strategic Plan Goals

- 1. Decreased Safety Incidents 2. Increased Student Achievement 3. Sound Financial Management
4. Improved Facilities and Infrastructure
5. Positive Educational Experience 6. Effective Leadership**

Special Meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Invocation
- 3. Pledge
- 4. **Approve Agenda**
- 5. **Dr. Strycker - Superintendent**
 - A. **Approve revised Policy AFC Authority for Emergency Closings** **2**
 - B. **Approve new Policy IAC Virtual Learning Days** **4**
 - C. *f.y.i. JCSD Virtual Learning Guidelines & Action Plan*

District: Jackson County School District
Section: A - School District Organization
Policy Code: AFC - Authority for Emergency Closings

Authority for Emergency Closings

The Jackson County Board of Education recognizes and accepts its duty and authority to maintain and operate all the schools under its control for such length of time during the year as may be required. 37-7-301 (m).

Upon application from the school board, the superintendent of schools may close any school because of an epidemic prevailing in the school district or because of the death, resignation, sickness or dismissal of a teacher or teachers or because of any other emergency necessitating the closing of the school. The superintendent is hereby authorized to declare an emergency and to close schools and district offices or dismiss them early in event of natural disaster, inclement weather or other emergencies which threaten the safety, health, or welfare, of students or staff members.

The superintendent will take such action only after consultation with transportation, emergency management, weather authorities or other agencies as necessitated by the circumstances. The superintendent shall notify the school board of the decision to close the schools. However, all such schools so closed shall operate for the required full time after being reopened during the scholastic year, unless the school board of the local school district submits a plan to alter the school term that is approved by the State Board of Education under the authority of Section 37-13-63 (2). 37-13-65

Disaster Emergency

If the school board determines that it is not economically feasible or practicable to operate any school within the district for the full one hundred eighty (180) days required for a scholastic year as contemplated due to an enemy attack, a manmade, technological or natural disaster, or extreme weather emergency in which the Governor has declared a disaster or state of emergency or the U.S. President has declared an emergency or major disaster to exist in this state, the school board may notify the State Department of Education of the disaster or weather emergency and submit a plan for altering the school term.

If the State Board of Education finds the disaster or extreme weather emergency to be the cause of the school not operating for the contemplated school term and that such school was in a school district covered by the Governor's or President's disaster or state of emergency declaration, it may permit that school board to operate the schools in its district for less than one hundred eighty (180) days; however, in no instance of a declared disaster or state of emergency under the provisions of this subsection shall a school board receive payment from the State Department of Education for per pupil expenditure for pupils in average daily attendance in excess of ten (10) days.

The district shall provide sufficient notice (before the close of the prior school day) to staff and students for any weather-related or other unforeseen virtual days. When instances occur that make virtual learning impractical, the district shall either make up any missed days or sue the days as weather days as allowed under Mississippi law.

Leave Due to Declared Emergency Closures

The school board may, in its discretion, provide additional administrative leave with pay for all employees (professional, certified, and classified) in the event of declared emergency closures.

LEGAL REF.: MS CODE as cited

CROSS REF.: Policies AE School Year
CEB Duties of Superintendent
IAC Virtual Learning Days

Original Adopted Date: 6/15/2015

Approved/Revised Date:

Record Id: 272334

Section: I Instructional Program

Policy Code: IAC Virtual Learning Days

Policy:

Virtual Learning Days

In the event of unplanned/unforeseen circumstances, the Jackson County School District may opt to utilize designated school-wide or district-wide virtual learning days throughout the year. Unforeseen circumstances include, but are not limited to, extreme weather, pandemics, illness, damage to a school, a water crisis, etc. The District may also allow individual students to utilize virtual learning on an as-needed basis in accordance with district policy. The District will ensure that all virtual learning days include the minimum 330 minutes of actual teaching as required by Mississippi law.

Teachers shall provide actual instruction to students during each virtual learning day and may not utilize asynchronous learning only. Lesson plans shall include daily synchronous/interactive instruction and dialogue and shall accurately denote synchronous or asynchronous portions as applicable. The District will ensure that students who access instruction virtually have instruction provided and access to the assigned teachers including any special services teachers/providers during the scheduled time for each course of the 180 days. Virtual learners shall receive the equivalent amount of synchronous and asynchronous instruction as in-person students. All virtual learning will be held to the same standards as in-person learning.

All virtual students will be required to participate in the required statewide end-of-course assessments on campus. Virtual learning days cannot be used for the purpose of allowing students to remain off-campus to provide additional planning time, professional development opportunities, testing, or to attend athletic events.

Virtual learning may not be used to circumvent disciplinary practices, including but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion. Students remanded to alternative school campuses for disciplinary offenses or for participation in high school equivalency coursework may receive virtual instruction. If virtual instruction is not possible, these students shall be presented with face-to-face instruction instead.

At all times during virtual learning, all teachers, staff, and students will comply with student privacy and other requirements set out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in virtual learning, parents and students (if age-appropriate) shall sign a commitment that acknowledges receipt, acceptance of, and commitment to this policy pertaining to virtual learning.

If a course requires a student to be on campus (ex. To give a speech or to present a project) that student may be required to be physically present on campus in order to meet that requirement.

DEVICE USAGE

Students participating in virtual learning shall use district issued devices in order to complete their work. Only school related activities shall be performed during school hours. Any use of district issued devices shall be in conformity with policy IJBD.

A student may be subject to discipline if he/or she violates the provisions of this or any other district policy.

VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS NOTIFICATION

The District will ensure students, parents, and staff are notified in advance of any virtual learning days so that students and staff are familiar with equipment, online platforms, and district-wide policies regarding student-issued devices.

The District will identify those individual students who do not have access to internet services and shall implement measures to ensure that all instruction is equivalent to his/her peers. Alternate plans will be used ONLY for those students who cannot access reliable internet.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Every pupil of the District will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion or marital status. The District will provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with a disability who need special education and, as appropriate, related services as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2007 (IDEA), Mississippi statutes, and the Mississippi Department of Education policies. A free appropriate public education will be provided to students with disabilities who are enrolled in the District and who are residing within the jurisdiction of the District. These services will be provided at no cost to the parent, will meet the standards of the Mississippi State Board of Education, and will stand in conformity with a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

~~District employees~~ IEP Committees will make decisions regarding virtual learning based upon what is best for each individual student. A process for conducting meetings pertaining to the evaluation and eligibility of students with disabilities along with a process for monitoring and documenting student progress and services delivered will be used by the District. Ongoing communication will be maintained at all times with families, teachers, and related service providers.

INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS

Districts shall provide sufficient notice (before the close of the prior school day) to staff and students for any weather-related or other unforeseen virtual days. When instances occur that make virtual learning impractical, the District shall either make up any missed days or use the days as weather days as allowed under Mississippi law and in accordance with policy AFC.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to support this policy in accordance with Mississippi law and SBE policy 9.3 and 56.2.

LEGAL REF: MS Code 37-13-67, SBE Policy Chapter 7, Chapter 9 Rule 9.2 and 9.3, and Chapter 56 Rule 56.2

CROSS REF: AE – School Year
AF – School Day
AFC – Authority for Emergency Closings
IDDF – Special Education Programs
IDDFAA – District Assurance For Children With Disabilities
IJBD – Responsible Use of District Issued Technology
JAA – Equal Education Opportunities
JCA – Student Code of Conduct
JD – Student Discipline
JRAB – Compliance with FERPA