



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: August 11, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter Schools and Renaissance School Project Leads, and Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Business Administrators
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

Educating Students During Quarantine

As the 2021-2022 school year commences, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) understands that there will be instances in which individual students, groups of students, or entire classes will meet the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) [COVID-19 exclusion criteria](#) and must be excluded from school.

While State law permits virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 in the event of a public-health related, districtwide closure, the law does not explicitly address situations when individual students, groups of students, or entire classes are excluded from school while the rest of the district or school remains open for in-person instruction.

Additionally, while N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10 requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide instructional services to an enrolled student when the student is confined to the home or another out-of-school setting due to a temporary or chronic health condition or a need for treatment that precludes participation in their usual education setting, the Department recognizes that such circumstances may not always apply to students excluded from school on the basis of NJDOH's COVID-19 exclusion criteria.

Therefore, the Department shares the following guidance for LEAs to ensure the continuity of instruction in these situations: where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the NJDOH's COVID-19 exclusion criteria, LEAs are strongly encouraged to immediately provide virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction. Over the last seventeen months, LEAs have employed immense creativity and innovation in delivering high-quality education to students in their homes. It is the Department's expectation that LEAs will continue to employ such strategies to ensure that students are able to continue their educational progress even when excluded from school due to COVID-19.

As a reminder, LEAs must continue to account for attendance of quarantined students in accordance with their local attendance policies. If you have any questions, please contact your [County Office of Education](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D, Acting Commissioner
NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group