

ITAWAMBA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATTENDANCE REPORTING PLAN
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

As a part of Mississippi's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Mississippi Department of Education has authorized school districts to utilize one (1) of three (3) options (traditional schedule, hybrid schedule, or virtual schedule) or any combination thereof, for operating schools in the 2020 – 2021 school year to meet the 180-day teaching day requirement in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-63.

The Itawamba County School District plans to begin the school year with primarily a traditional school model. Students will participate in traditional school from Monday – Thursday of each week and will then participate in distance learning from home or from a hotspot on Friday of each week. Friday will not be a day off. Students will be expected to participate in and complete distance learning (virtual or hand-outs) work and must do so for attendance purposes.

Students will have the option of taking classes via virtual distance learning. If a student opts to take classes via virtual distance learning, the student and his/her parent or legal guardian must make an appointment with the child's school where they will receive, execute and agree to the terms and conditions of the Itawamba County School District Learning Agreement. Also, students who elect to attend school via virtual distance learning must physically attend school on Friday of each week from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., providing their own transportation, to take proctored tests or complete proctored assignments. Students that utilize the distance learning model will be expected to meet the same academic requirements as traditional students.

Students and parents should be prepared for all three models of instruction, including returning to school Monday – Friday, to be utilized during the school year depending on the severity of the COVID-19 virus in our area and depending on direction from the Governor's Office, the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Education and the Itawamba County Board of Education.

Classes conducted via virtual distance learning will be done asynchronously.

Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-13-91 makes education for any child between the ages of 6 and 17 compulsory, requires schools to report daily attendance, and requires referrals to other entities when attempts to secure enrollment and/or attendance of a compulsory-school-age child are unable to effect the enrollment and/or attendance. Existing regulations governing the collection of attendance assume physical presence. That may not be practical with the hybrid or virtual schedule. Therefore, in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education, the Itawamba County School District (ICSD) will collect and report attendance as follows for the 2020-2021 school year.

For the 2020 – 2021 school year, ICSD schools shall report daily attendance using the following types: traditional (in-person) and non-traditional (i.e., virtual/online/distance learning):

- For traditional in-person attendance, consistent with existing regulations, a student will be marked present or absent in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-13-91.
- For non-traditional (virtual/online/distance learning) attendance, the student shall be marked present or absent based on the following:
 - If the student is utilizing the ICSD learning management system (LMS) either full-time or in combination with a traditional method, the student's attendance will be taken on a daily basis based on completion of each day's engagement measures which will be authenticated with daily lessons, activities, assignments and/or tests.
 - If a student fails to complete and submit the daily requirements for a class, that student will be counted absent for that class period.
 - A student cannot work ahead for attendance or have attendance changed from absent to present once work is missed and an absence is recorded.
 - A student whose combined class absences for a day exceed thirty-seven percent (37%) of the instructional day shall not be counted present.
 - If the student does not have reliable internet access and cannot access the LMS, teachers shall make one-on-one contact with those students for the day to authenticate their presence and provide daily evidence of engagement, which can include, but not be limited to:
 - Completion of assignments, lessons, activities and/or tests via oral or handwritten submission. Each class will have assignments due each week, but they will be divided into daily grades. Completion of those assignments will result in attendance for each class. A student must attend 63% of the day to be counted present for that day.
 - Progress toward or satisfaction of the child's IEP requirements.

Instructional minutes per day are to be no less than 240 minutes - except for seniors who qualify for early release and except for 60% days.

(Any Itawamba County School District Board Policy, Plan or Procedure, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this Attendance Reporting Plan shall be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.)