

PELHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY IMBA – DISTANCE EDUCATION

Category: Recommended

Related Policies: IC, IFA, IHBH, IHBI, IK, IKF & IMBC

“Distance education” means and includes any instructional mode that is not in-person instruction including, but not limited to, correspondence, video-based, internet-based, online courses, remote instruction, or any combination thereof. It also includes hybrid instructional models that utilize elements of distance education and traditional instruction in any combination.

Under rules of the N.H. Department of Education, distance education may be offered only:

- (1) When inclement weather, makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction (i.e., remote learning day); or
- (2) As an option for a parent/guardian or adult student making a request for distance education (e.g., online courses).

When inclement weather, makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction (i.e., remote learning day)

When inclement weather makes it unsafe to safely transport students to or from in-person instruction, the District or school may elect to provide instruction remotely, pursuant to Board policy IC.

As an option for a parent/guardian or adult student making a request for distance education (e.g., online courses)

The Board encourages students to take advantage of distance education opportunities as a form of Extended Learning Opportunity and a means of enhancing and supporting their education. Distance education means correspondence, video-based, internet/online-based or other similar media that provide educational courses as a means to fulfill curriculum requirements. If the course is to be taken for credit, then Policy IMBC - Alternative Credit Options, will apply.

As with all course work, students applying for permission to take an online course must complete prerequisites. Additionally, students must provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student would be able to function effectively in a distance education learning environment.

Students taking approved online courses must be enrolled in the District. Online courses may be taken in the summer under the same conditions as during the school year. A counselor will monitor student progress, grading of assignments, and testing.

Approved distance education courses must comply with all federal and state statutes pertaining to student privacy and to public broadcasting of audio and video. Confidentiality of student record information will be maintained throughout the process. This includes information shared between District representatives and the virtual school or online teacher, information shared between the District or online teacher with students and parents, and information shared between District representatives, the virtual school or online teacher and others.

The District will provide safeguards for students participating in online instruction activities, and Policy JICL - Responsible Use of Technology for Students.

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Students earning credit for distance education courses shall participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program. Credit courses will require students to meet similar academic standards as required by the District.

Credit for the course is not recognized until an official record of the final grade has been submitted to the principal or designee with feedback from the online teacher.

Students shall abide by all student expectations including those in the student handbook when participating in distance learning.

Educational Progress and Policy Violations

If a student participating in distance education is not making educational progress, as determined by educational assessments, the option to participate in distance education may be rescinded by the District. A parent or guardian may appeal this determination to the Superintendent for review. If the Superintendent upholds the determination, the parent/guardian has a right to appeal to the State Board of Education per N.H. Department of Education Rules Ed 306.22(f).

Students who violate any part of the policy or engage in any other activity that school authorities consider inappropriate are subject to disciplinary action consistent with Board policies and the student handbook.

District Policy History:

Adopted: November 4, 2020

Revised: September 29, 2021

Revised: March 8, 2023

Legal References:

Ed 306.04(a)(12), Distance Education

Ed 306.18(a)(7), School Year

Ed 306.22, Distance Education