



Remote Academy Application - FAQs

[SB671](#)

SB671/SL 2022-59

Question	Answer
What is SB671 as it pertains to Remote Academies ?	Senate Bill 671 addresses planned virtual instruction for the 2022-2023 school year and provides guidelines for Remote Academies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. It was passed into law on July 8, 2022. SL 2022-59
What is the definition of a Remote Academy?	The statute defines a Remote Academy as a public school whose instruction is provided primarily online through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility. A Remote Academy may include any combination of grade levels.
Is a Remote Academy the same thing as a Virtual Academy?	Yes, if the Virtual Academy is providing primarily online instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility.
Why are districts being required to submit an application to operate a Remote Academy?	Pursuant to SL 2022-59, each LEA is authorized to offer remote instruction. All Remote Academies must be approved by the SBE and meet the legal requirements. Legislation around operating a Remote Academy was ratified in June, 2022 and included an application and approval process by the NC State Board of Education.
Are traditional schools that offer NCVPS courses and other online courses as an option to their students required to submit an application for a remote academy?	No. A remote academy application is only required for those schools who are offering remote instruction and are operating as a stand-alone school where remote instruction is used to satisfy the minimum required



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	<i>number of instructional days for the school calendar.</i> This means that if a school is offering instruction <i>primarily online</i> through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction to students in a remote location (e.g. their homes), requires an application to attend, and has dedicated staff, then the school meets the definition of a remote academy and will need to submit a remote academy application. Brick-and-mortar, traditional schools who offer NCVPS or online higher education classes as an <i>option</i> to enrolled students do not need to submit a remote academy application for board approval.
If select students opt to take online/blended classes while enrolled in a traditional school, do we need to apply for a remote academy school number to serve a subset population of students?	No, schools will still have the flexibility to meet the needs of students using blended and/or virtual instruction within traditional face-to-face schools. Pursuant to SL 2022-59 , <i>a remote academy is "a public school whose instruction is provided primarily online through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility."</i> Districts that are using models of blended and virtual instruction within traditional schools are not required to submit a remote academy application. Remote Academy applications are only required for those districts that are operating a <i>school whose instruction is provided primarily online through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility</i>. Traditional schools are allowed to offer a variety of remote options to meet the needs of their students. Examples:



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	For example, if a district is allowing students enrolled at traditional High School A to take virtual courses that are being offered by an institute of higher learning, the district does not need to submit a remote academy application. If a district is allowing students enrolled in traditional High School A to take courses offered through NCVPS, the district does not need to submit a remote academy application. If a district is allowing students enrolled in traditional Elementary School A to take remote learning courses that are being taught by teacher(s) at Elementary School A, the district does not need to submit a remote academy application. For all examples outlined above, the students taking these remote courses are officially enrolled in a traditional school and are provided remote options in order to meet individual student needs. Consequently, all SIS and accountability reporting will be reflective on the traditional school in which they are enrolled.
Are charter schools eligible to submit a remote academy application?	Section 115C-218.120 - Remote charter academies(a) As part of an application or modification of a charter, a nonprofit may apply to the Review Board for approval to include a remote charter academy that meets the requirements of this Part as part of the nonprofit's charter. <i>Please note: Remote Charter Academy applications are submitted to the Charter School Review Board. This requires a different application process than the one administered by the Office of Virtual Instruction Services at NCDPI.</i>



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School Codes

Question	Answer
Is the school number automatically issued upon approval of the Remote Academy application?	No. Once the application is approved by the SBE, the district will be notified. Upon notification, the district will apply for a unique school code using the EDDIE platform.
If a remote academy is currently assigned a school code, will districts need to reapply for another school code upon approval of the remote academy application?	No. Remote academies that already have an assigned school code that is unique to that particular Remote Academy will not need to request a new code.
If a Remote Academy is currently operating without a unique school code, will districts need to apply for a school code?	Yes. Pursuant to SL 2022-59, each LEA is authorized to offer remote instruction. All Remote Academies must be approved by the SBE and meet the legal requirements. Once the application has been approved by the SBE, the district may apply for a unique school code for operating the Remote Academy.
Will remote academies serving elementary, middle, and high school be required to have a separate school code for each grade span?	It depends. If the remote academy is operating three different schools for each of the three grade spans, then yes. However, if the remote academy is operating as a K-12 school, for example, the RA would only need to apply for one school code. For example, if a district is currently operating a K-5 virtual academy that has a different set of admission requirements and its own principal as well as a 6-12 virtual academy that has another set of admission requirements and a different principal, this district would need to apply for two school codes upon approval of their RA applications.
If a district applies for a remote academy and IS approved by the <i>SBE</i> but decides	To close a school the LEA's EDDIE subscribed user can enter a closing date in that field on



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NOT to open the school due to unforeseen circumstances, *what is the process for closing the school?*

the school information page. They should also send an email to eddie@dpi.nc.gov to let DPI know they are closing the school.

If a school is completing the school year as scheduled and then closing at a later date, the closing date should be 07/01/YYYY. If the school is being shut down for another reason, the date they cease operation can be the closing date.

If the school is approved by the SBE but wants to delay opening for a year, the district should submit this request in writing to the Office of Virtual Instruction Services at NCDPI prior to the start of the school year.

Alternative Schools, Long-term Suspensions, Homebound Students, and Special Circumstances

Question

Answer

Are alternative schools that are offering some type of full-time virtual instruction required to submit an application?

No.
Alternative schools have flexibility in implementing strategies for delivering instruction.

Can students who are on long-term suspension take part in remote instruction without being enrolled in a remote academy?

Yes.
Students who have been long-term suspended may participate in online learning and remote instruction offered by the traditional brick-and-mortar school without requiring them to enroll in the remote academy. Alternative schools who serve long term suspended students are not required to request a remote academy school number.

We currently have some students who are on long-term suspension or who are in alternative education programs doing remote instruction with structured instructional supports, check-ins, and parent approval. Will this be allowed?

Yes.
Alternative schools will continue to have flexibility with offering online options for students enrolled at the alternative school.



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We have concerns about our alternative programs and students who are violent offenders. Will we be allowed to continue remote instruction with these students without having a remote learning academy?	Yes. Alternative schools will continue to have flexibility with offering online options for students enrolled at the alternative school.
Will traditional schools still be able to offer remote learning options to homebound students without requiring them to enroll in a remote academy?	Yes. Traditional schools can continue to offer remote learning options to homebound students as needed. However, homebound students may also choose to attend a district's remote academy if they meet the admission requirements.
Will traditional schools be able to offer remote instruction in the short-term for students in special circumstances who are not homebound or on long-term suspension? (e.g. short-term suspension, extended absence due to family circumstances, severe weather closures, etc.)	Yes. As long as the district has submitted a remote instruction plan to NCDPI, the traditional school can continue to offer remote instruction in the short-term as needed for emergencies and other short-term circumstances.
Will traditional students be allowed to enroll in an alternative school that is offering remote instruction?	No. Alternative schools are designated for at-risk students. Traditional students receiving instruction primarily online through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction delivered to students in a remote location outside of the school facility must be enrolled in a remote academy, not an alternative school.
Application Process	
Question	Answer
Are all districts that are currently operating a virtual / remote academy required to submit an application to the NC Department Of Public Instruction?	Yes. All school administrative units apply to the State Board of Education for approval of operating a remote academy. However, they will not need to reapply for a school code upon approval of their remote academy application if the RA already has a school code.
If the district is operating separate Remote Academies for specific grade levels, will each	Yes. If the Remote Academies are operating independently of one another, they are



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Remote Academy need to submit an application?	considered separate schools; therefore, a unique school code is required of each. <i>For example, if a district is planning to operate a K-5 Remote Academy and a separate 6-12 Remote Academy, an application is needed for each school. If the district is operating a school for grades K-12 as one Remote Academy, only one application is required.</i>
What is the anticipated timeline for the Remote Academy application process and approval?	The application window for the 2025-2026 school year will close on April 10, 2025. Once final SBE approval has been given, districts needing a school code may submit their request in EDDIE. Obtaining a school code is the responsibility of the district. Approved Remote Academies may begin/continue operations during the 2025-2026 school year.
Who should I contact with questions about my application?	Regional Office of Virtual Instruction Services (OVIS) Consultants will be the primary contact for applicants in their region. Contact information for Regional OVIS Consultants can be found here. After initial review and approval by the OVIS Consultant, DPI leadership will review and provide final approval before submitting the application for SBE approval.
How often will approved Remote Academies be required to apply for approval of operation?	The SBE will review and approve a plan submitted by a local board of education for the creation of a Remote Academy that meets the requirements for a term of five years. A local board of education may apply for renewal of approval as a Remote Academy for additional terms of five years. The SBE will consider renewal based in part on the success of the remote academy in the prior five years.
Will new remote academies that plan to open in a future school year have to complete an application?	There will be an application window for new remote academies to apply on an annual basis.



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Application Language and Terms

Question	Answer
How will the success of the Remote Academy be evaluated?	The SBE will evaluate the success of Remote Academies. Success will be measured by school performance scores and grades, retention rates, attendance rates and for grades nine through twelve, high school completion and dropout rates. The SBE shall report by November 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the evaluation of these schools.
What does it mean by “content provider” in the application?	A content provider is the source of the Remote Academy’s online content. For example, some districts use teacher-created online content. This content is developed internally by educators and subject matter experts. Other districts may opt to purchase online content from publishers i.e, Pearson, Apex, Edmentum. The quality of online content is an important component of a Remote Academy and contributes to the success of students.
What is the difference between synchronous and asynchronous instruction?	During synchronous instruction, instructors and students gather at the same time and place (virtually or in person) and are interacting in real-time. <i>Examples include:</i> <i>Video conferences, interactive webinars, chat-based online discussions, lectures that are broadcast at the same time they are delivered, etc..</i> Asynchronous instruction refers to students accessing materials at their own pace and time. <i>Examples include:</i> <i>Watching pre-recorded videos or lessons, viewing video demonstrations, reading and writing assignments, etc..</i>



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Remote Academy Personnel

Question	Answer
Are remote academies required to employ a full time data manager, ITF, Media Library Coordinator?	The remote academy must ensure sufficient digital teaching and learning support staff to include a minimum of the following: • An instructional technology facilitator • A school library media coordinator • A data manager • Sufficient remote technicians to ensure technical support throughout the instructional day for staff and students.
Will the remote academy receive funding for a principal?	A remote academy in a local school administrative unit with less than 100 students in final ADM is not entitled to 12 months of employment for a principal.