

Attendance

DESE has amended the definition of an “absence” to reflect remote, off site, and virtual learning. This definition replaces the previous definition set forth in COM-18-093 for state reporting purposes. **COM-18-093 - State Reported Absence**

A student is absent if the student is not:

1. present for onsite instruction provided by the district,
2. participating in a planned district-approved activity, or
3. engaged in scheduled instruction at an off-site location, including remote learning.

All school districts have the ability to define the attendance absence codes that are appropriate for the district's needs. Use of the attendance codes should be in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-18-201 et seq. and 6-20-2303. The attendance absence codes are set up in eSchool and should be modified as applicable and allowable.

Based on the above definition, a district will need to review the attendance view setups in the district's eSchool database for each building to ensure that all of the appropriate absence codes are included in the views. All attendance codes, such as excused, unexcused, or any other code meeting the definition of “state reported absence” should be included in the attendance views to ensure accurate reporting to the state in cycles 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Only the district's eSchool Administrator should have access and make changes to the attendance view setup and/or attendance absence codes. Please contact your APSCN Field Rep for additional assistance.

For information on chronic absenteeism, please check the resources available at http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/attendance_

COVID-19 Attendance Addendum

For onsite days, students will be marked absent or present in accordance with policies JEA and JEC.

For remote learning days, parents are responsible for making sure students engage with the assigned work. Students will be marked absent for the days that they are not actively engaged in the lesson as evidenced in the learning management system.

If students are unable to engage with the assigned work on remote learning days, documentation must be provided to the school for the absence to be excused. Absences on remote learning days will be coded per the excused absences listed in JEA and JEC.