

2021 Kansas Statutes

72-5180. Remote learning; limitations; state foundation aid adjustment for remote learners. (a)

Commencing in the 2021-2022 school year, except as otherwise provided in this section, no school district shall provide or offer to any student enrolled in the district more than a total of 40 school term hours of remote learning unless:

(1) The board of education of the school district has authorized a student to temporarily attend school through remote learning in excess of the 40-hour limitation pursuant to a temporary individual exemption granted pursuant to subsection (b); or

(2) due to a disaster, the state board of education has authorized the school district to conduct remote learning in excess of the 40-hour limitation pursuant to subsection (c) or has waived the limitations provided in subsection (d).

(b) The board of education of a school district may temporarily suspend the remote learning limitation provided in subsection (a) on an individual student basis for any student who cannot reasonably attend school in person due to an illness, medical condition, injury or any other extraordinary circumstance that would necessitate remote learning to allow the student to continue to receive an education during the existence of such circumstance. The board of education of the school district shall notify the state board of any individual exemptions provided pursuant to this subsection and the reason for such exemption.

(c) The state board of education may authorize a school district to exceed the 40-hour remote learning limitation upon application by the school district. The application may be granted by the state board of education upon:

(1) Certification by a school district that, due to a disaster, conditions resulting from widespread or severe property damage caused by the disaster or other conditions restricting the operation of public schools will exist in the school district for an inordinate period of time; and

(2) a determination by the state board that the school district cannot reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with the requirements of this section unless remote learning is conducted for a period of time not to exceed 240 school term hours, unless such limitation is waived by the state board pursuant to subsection (d).

(d) The state board of education may waive the requirements of law relating to the remote learning limitations pursuant to subsection (c) in any school year upon application for such waiver by a school district. The waiver may be granted by the state board of education upon:

(1) Certification by a board of education that, due to a disaster, conditions resulting from widespread or severe property damage caused by the disaster or other conditions restricting the operation of public schools will exist in the school district for an inordinate period of time; and

(2) a determination by the state board that the school district cannot reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with such requirements of law and that remote learning beyond the limitations provided in subsection (c) is necessary to allow the school district to continue to provide education to students during such conditions.

(e) (1) Any student who attends a school of a school district through remote learning in excess of the remote learning limitations provided pursuant to this section shall be deemed a remote learning student and shall be counted as a remotely enrolled student for state aid purposes.

(2) On or before June 30 of each school year:

(A) A school district that offers remote learning during the school year shall determine the remote enrollment of the district based on the number of students remotely enrolled in

accordance with this section;

(B) the clerk or superintendent of each school district shall certify under oath to the state board a report showing the remote enrollment of the school district determined pursuant to this subsection by the grades maintained in the schools of the school district. The state board shall examine such reports upon receipt, and if the state board finds any errors in any such report, the state board shall consult with the school district officer furnishing the report and make any necessary corrections in the report; and

(C) the state board shall determine the number of students who were included in the remote enrollment of each school district and recompute the enrollment of the school district as required pursuant to this subsection.

(3) A school district that offers remote learning and is determined to have remotely enrolled students pursuant to this section shall receive remote enrollment state aid. The state board shall determine the amount of remote enrollment state aid a school district is to receive by multiplying the remote enrollment of the school district by \$5,000. No remote enrollment state aid shall be provided for any student who participates in remote learning on a part-time basis during the school day.

(4) The state board shall notify each school district of the amount of remote enrollment state aid the district shall receive pursuant to this section and, pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5136, and amendments thereto, shall:

(A) Require the district to remit any such amount of overpayment made to the district in the current school year; or

(B) deduct the excess amounts paid to the district from future payments made to the school district.

(5) If a student is included in the remote enrollment of a district pursuant to this subsection, such student shall not be included in the adjusted enrollment of the district in the current school year.

(f) Each school district that determines remote enrollment pursuant to this section shall submit any documentation or information required by the state board.

(g) As used in this section, "disaster" means a state of disaster emergency declared by proclamation of the governor pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, closure of schools by order issued by a county or joint board of health, a local health officer pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119, and amendments thereto, or the secretary of health and environment pursuant to K.S.A. 65-126, and amendments thereto, or occurrence of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, wind, storm, an epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation or explosion.

(h) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to the Kansas school equity and enhancement act.

(i) This section shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2021.

History: L. 2021, ch. 114, § 6; June 1.