

# Continuous Learning Task Force Guidance

## Kansas Department of Education

March 2020

The Continuous Learning Task Force's primary goal was to develop guidance for Kansas educators to meet the immediate need of supporting learning outside of our normal practices. The team intentionally adopted the word "Continuous" as a means to bring clarity and focus to the experience of our teachers, students and families as we finish the 2019-2020 school year. Avoiding terms like "distance learning" or "virtual learning" helps our school leaders to think globally and progressively about how to best meet the learning needs of all learners. One common refrain throughout this team's short time working together has been a message of inclusiveness and equity. The guidance and resource documents from the team will reflect these priorities.

### Frequently Asked Questions for Administration:

- 1. Can we bring students or staff into the building to work in small groups?**  
Follow the guidance, policies and procedures of your local county health department/local health office. The most current information always resides at the community level.
- 2. How do we get technology and personal materials to the students? How do we collect them at the end of the year?**  
Schools should consult with the local county health department/local health officer to implement policies and procedures, including practices for cleaning and sanitizing items prior to pickup and health screening protocol for individuals entering a school building. This may include designating times for students to pick items up either by driving through, or setting times for small groups to come to the school to pick items up.

### Frequently Asked Questions for Teachers

- 1. How are students held accountable for learning and what is expected time for students to spend learning each day?**  
Having weekly assignments, projects, video check-ins, projects are all ways to assess learning. Once again, focus is on the critical standards needed for your content area. Our recommended guidelines for MAXIMUM student commitment each day are as follows:
  - Pre-K : 30 minutes
  - Grades K-1: 45 minutes
  - Grades 2-3: 60 minutes
  - Grades 4-5: 90 minutes
  - Grades 6-12: 30 minutes per teacher (3 hours max in a day)

The guidelines above are meant for any delivery model -- packets, on-line, hybrid, etc.

- 2. What if my students don't have devices or the internet?**

- Internet access will be an issue for many families in Kansas.
- Staff and students may lack the resources to connect remotely.
- We encourage districts to reach out to local internet service providers to see what options are available for community members.
- Many cell phone providers are removing the data usage cap for current subscribers. We recommend reaching out to local cell phone providers for how best to relay this information to parents and for instructions on how to utilize cell phones as hotspots.
- We recommend sending devices home with students if the school has access to them in the building. If no device is available (see your survey results), it is important to provide learning packs to send home or have picked up weekly or bi-weekly with work, projects, to complete. We highly recommend giving students voice and choice to demonstrate their learning. Consider service work for a neighbor and writing a reflection on their experience vs. writing an essay reflection

### **3. How do I collect student work and have students demonstrate student learning?**

Keeping with just a few platforms will make both student learning and teacher professional learning more efficient. Our suggested platforms for collecting student work are: SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Microsoft Classroom, Bloomz. If you have student management systems already in place (such as Canvas), utilize those platforms.

## **Recommendations for Student Support**

1. Establish office hours: Teacher availability/ check-ins
2. Use common platforms (suggested or already in use) across a district to alleviate any confusion for parents and students.
3. Determine whether students are completing work online or traditionally.
4. Keep variables in mind when you plan your lessons *considering students may have*:
  - Multiple classes
  - Other responsibilities
  - Personal or family illness
  - Limited access to devices and internet

## **Recommendations for Family Partnership and Support**

1. Provide families with resources they need to meet basic needs so that they can support their student(s).
2. Provide families with the resources they need to meet their students' academic needs so that they can support their student(s).
3. Provide options and variety so that families can participate to the level they are capable.
4. Cross curricula work benefits students and staff as well as parents by streamlining continuous learning.

## How can we support our students and families during this process?

- Provide families with a point person to reach out to if they have questions about the continuous learning process or the latest district information and impact on schools.
- Send guidance out to the community as a whole to ensure all community members may best support students and families.
- Connect families with a list of resources/ groups that can help support families and their needs
- Note: It is recommended that resources and information be mailed out to ALL families to ensure that resources are received when families do not have access to internet/devices.

## Recommendations for Teacher Support

1. Social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter, or designated areas on KSDE's website.
2. Keep teacher stress down by "sharing our calm, don't join the chaos"
  - Zoom other teachers
  - Use #KansansCan on social media
  - Create grade level wide assignments or options for statewide access
  - Make and share "How-to" videos
3. Utilize familiar resources such as Google, SeeSaw, Nearpod, Office 365
4. Set up platform for teachers to share, talk, and work through this as a profession

To read this document in full please click [here](#).

For more information about your school district – please visit your school district webpage.

And always remember to extend grace to all in these unique and trying times.

