

Jones Public Schools Distance Learning Plan

District level guidance for instruction and teacher standards during Continuing Education period.

Overarching Goal:

We will re-establish student / teacher relationships throughout the community by utilizing resources and activities that do not violate CDC, Federal, State or governing agency guidelines on social distancing or group restrictions. Teachers will provide resources and guidance to reinforce current skills. Teachers will introduce new skills when opportunities exist for all students to benefit from such activities.

Current Position:

The administrative team has met regularly to determine the best plan of action for instituting a continuing education plan. Principals have met with lead teachers and created grade level practices for all possible instructional platforms. Teachers should have attempted to make contact with each student in the district to determine distance learning abilities and have an idea of which households have full interactive, online capabilities, smartphone/tablet cellular only, or no opportunity for synchronous distance learning. From this survey, we can determine which students will need a hard packet delivered regularly. The administration has established the ability and conducted several Zoom virtual meetings, and we should be comfortable with this platform. The district website has been modified to provide easy to find links to resources for families. Teachers can add content to these links through the building principal.

Professional Development:

Building principals will continue to host faculty Zoom meetings and provide resources to help teachers develop skills and confidence in providing distance learning.

Assignment Development:

Instructional activities in each discipline will focus on literacy or math. Teachers are to provide assignments based on the time one would expect students to spend completing the assignment. Time guidelines will depend on grade level and will be provided by the building principal. Assignments should be provided no more than once each week. However, there may be opportunities for teachers to create a multi-week assignment. Teachers will consult with the building principal prior to making multi-week assignments. Teachers should place a priority on providing parents some relief in managing at home instruction. Most parents are balancing work and their child's education, so teachers should keep this in mind when developing activities.

During this time of significant stress and pressure on everyone, we should be mindful of our impact on the family's ability to manage multiple critical needs.

Instruction Delivery:

Teachers will be providing lessons through a blended distance learning approach. Teachers may provide activities and assignments through multiple modes; however, every student will be provided with equally rigorous instruction. The district will provide Chromebooks to families in need of those devices. The district is pursuing opportunities to provide hotspots where needed; however, families without internet will receive hard copy packets until broadband can be provided. Hard copy packets will be picked up during meal service. The specific schedule will be provided by building administration.

Assessment:

Teachers will rely on feedback from students and parents to determine progress. Teachers will not request to have assignments or activities returned for grading. If a student is not responsive to the teacher's outreach, the teachers will contact the building principal for guidance.

Special Education:

Students with current special education needs identified through an IEP, will continue to receive those services. SPED staff has been reaching these families to ensure program requirements are being met. Special Education support staff will be utilized to help make more frequent direct contact with students in need during this time. Special education students will be provided instruction that is equal in depth, content, and rigor to that provided to their peers.

English Language Learners:

District staff with multilingual skills will continue to work with students needing language assistance. These relationships have already been established, and the staff that has worked with these students will continue to do so. Administration will provide resources specific to this process. English learners will be provided instruction that is equal in depth, content, and rigor to that provided to their peers.

Social - Emotional Resources:

District staff certified in school counseling or school psychology will provide social emotional resources through the use of technology and distance (virtual/online/e-learning) counseling with the same standards and adherence to ethics as school counselors working in traditional school settings. School counselors and school psychologists will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure equity, access and success of all students whether virtual school counseling is offered synchronously or asynchronously.

Counseling staff will provide resources to parents who may be struggling during this difficult time. Resources will be provided on the district website.

Other Considerations:

Teachers should try to provide weekly feedback for each student. For some (secondary teachers with 80+ students) this is not possible, so please use your discretion. All teachers should establish "office hours" and make those times available to the students. This is a time a student or parent can expect to reach the teacher or receive an immediate return call or email. Teachers should ask about general welfare along with feedback on the weekly activities. Teachers will keep a communication log and record at least the date and time of contact and attempted contact.

Final Grades:

Quantitative measures for final grades will be determined by assignments that were recorded prior to Thursday, March 11. However, teachers should be very generous in allowing students to make up work from that period. Teachers should assume that students would have used the final nine weeks to finish missing work and perform optimally on future assignments. Any teacher that feels a student has performed in a way that should result in a lower final grade should consult with the building principal for further guidance.

Timeline:

Distance learning will begin on April 6, and the last day of the 2019 - 2020 academic calendar will be May 15th.