

LAUNCH NEBRASKA



Nebraska Department of Education • September 15, 2020

Attendance Matters

***Connected. Present.
Engaged. Supported.***

Parents, Families, and Providers





This guidance document is advisory in nature but binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. For comments regarding these documents contact nde.guidance@nebraska.gov.

Attendance Matters: Connected, Present, Engaged, Supported

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living. As Nebraska schools navigate the complicated transition into the fall, students must be connected, present, engaged, and supported across all learning modalities. Attendance was critical before COVID-19. Now attendance and access look different. *The purpose of this document is to outline helpful resources and considerations for parents, families, and providers.*

Foundational Values:

- **Equity** - We must ensure our students, especially those who have been historically underserved, maintain access to high quality teaching.
- **Quality** - While flexibility and innovation must be pursued, we must not back down from our standards for quality.
- **Flexibility** - We must pursue flexibilities in regulations and innovations to ensure students have access to high quality teaching.
- **Safety** - Learning cannot occur if the school community does not feel safe in their environment.
- **Decisive** - Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will make mistakes, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

Whether a student is learning from home or in person, attendance can be directly addressed by ensuring students are:



Connected

Technology infrastructure and devices are present for the student to learn.



Present

Schools examine and expand their definition of “present” beyond just a student sitting in a seat.



Engaged

Engagement means the curiosity, attention, passion that students show when learning or being taught.



Supported

Educating a student requires attending to the whole child, including social emotional, mental, and physical health and well-being.

Each school and context is different, so be sure to reach out specifically to your child's school for more guidance and direction. The below resources are meant to serve as additional support for you as your child learns from any modality this year (online, in-person, hybrid schedule).



Connected

- K12 Digital Bridge through Education SuperHighway provides a Quick Guide to Connecting Students at Home Playbook. The toolkit is located here: <https://digitalbridgek12.org/toolkit/research-options/connect-your-students-to-internet/>
- Wide Open Schools has created a “Back to School Guide” for families and parents. These resources could easily be adapted for caregivers and childcare providers who serve students learning remotely. Find out more here: <https://wideopenschool.org/families-and-teachers/families/>
- Education Reimagined provides resources for digital learning, especially tailored to parents and families who are supporting digital learning for their students. Find out more here: <https://education-reimagined.org/distance-learning-resource-center/#parents>



Present

- Attendance Works, a national non-profit leader in addressing chronic absenteeism, has developed multiple resources for families and providers specifically around student attendance and presence in schools. Learn more about these resources, including translations, here: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/handouts-for-families/>
- Common Sense provides “Parent Tips and Tricks for Distance Learning” which outlines best practices for supporting learning from home. Find out more: <https://www.commonsense.org/education/articles/parent-tips-and-tricks-for-distance-learning>



Engaged

- Positive Behavioral Interventions (PBIS) can help students who are struggling to stay focused and engaged. Educators use these kinds of strategies to support learners and keep them engaged. PBIS World is a collaborative website that provides common student behavioral issues, and potential solutions for them. Find out more here: <https://www.pbisworld.com/>
- Another important tool for engagement is to help students participate in other activities they would normally get at school like music and PE. Here are some helpful resources to support students there. See resources below:
- SHAPE America has provided numerous resources for COVID, PA and PE. The site is designed for PE teachers, however, has many resources that parents and community members could use <https://www.shapeamerica.org/covid19-resources.aspx>
- Go Noodle provides additional resources for “brain breaks” that involve movement. More information can be found here: <https://www.gonoodle.com/>
- Additional resources for family engagement with schools can be found on the NDE's webpage for Family and Community Engagement. Information can be found here: <https://www.education.ne.gov/family/>
- Mindful Music Moments (Cleveland Orchestra) <https://youtu.be/Xj7nG31kGKI>
- I Am Peace <https://youtu.be/hXA3837uv3w> Read aloud by the author, Susan Verde



Supported

- The Office of Special Education has put together resources including tips and tricks for students, parents, and families. These resources include at home activities for families, a family guide to at home learning, and many other useful tools to support all families. More information at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/>
- One of the most important strategies for having your student present and engaged is to create a schedule for student learning at home. The NDE created a menu of resources, including sample schedules on the e-learning webpage. Find out more here: <https://www.education.ne.gov/educational-technology/e-learning-days>
- Educational Service Units (ESUs) serve Nebraska schools across 17 regions of Nebraska. The ESUs have curated resources for parents and families supporting students learning from home. You can find out more here: <https://my.visme.co/view/6xmjngg7-parenting-tips-during-covid-19>
- Our partners at Beyond School Bells provide “Virtual Backpacks” a series of interactive, engaging activities that can be done at home that extend learning. Find out more here: <https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/virtual-backpack/>



LAUNCH NEBRASKA

www.launchne.com

