

Remote Learning Drills Guidance

In 2022, the Tennessee General Assembly passed new laws related to remote learning conducted by Tennessee public schools. [Chapter 897 of the Public Acts of 2022](#), now codified at T.C.A. § 49-6-3004(i), authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to provide up to two days, per semester, of the required 180 days of classroom instruction through remote instruction in the event of dangerous or extreme weather conditions, serious outbreaks of illness, or during required TCAP, end-of-course, and ACT testing. This new law defines remote instruction as “instruction that takes place when a teacher does not provide in-person instruction to students within the traditional class setting, “and requires remote instruction to provide:

- students enrolled in kindergarten access to at least four hours of instruction each day; and
- students enrolled in grades 1-12 access to at least 6 ½ hours of instruction each day.

The Tennessee General Assembly also passed [Chapter 936 of the Public Acts of 2022](#), now codified at T.C.A. § 49-2-139, requiring LEAs to conduct remote learning drills at least once each school year. The new law also requires the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) to develop guidance on conducting such drills.

Remote learning drills should be designed to support the two remote instruction days authorized and defined in T.C.A. § 49-6-3004(i). The manner by which each LEA provides remote instruction may vary by LEA, so the TDOE does not have a prescribed drill that needs to be conducted by every LEA. However, each LEA's remote learning drill should be based on the process the LEA will use to provide remote instruction in compliance with the law.

A remote learning drill does not have to fully simulate the actual event of remote learning but should confirm the preparedness of the LEA to support remote instruction. LEAs may choose to what extent the remote learning drill involves students, teachers, and other school staff.

At a minimum, TDOE recommends that written procedures be developed and tested as part of a remote learning drill (actual or tabletop-type) to ensure the following:

1. All school issued student technology/devices are up to date/current for all OS and software and are in proper working order, if applicable.
2. All school issued student devices can be easily distributed to the student in the event of the remote learning day (including prior to or during remote learning day), if applicable.
3. All students have access to the internet and the minimum required bandwidth for the minimum specified amount of time depending on grade level requirements for the remote learning day, if applicable.
4. The LEA has a distribution network for content that will allow students to receive the minimum instructional time.
5. All teacher devices are in proper working order and can access the internet for the minimum amount of time necessary per grade level to provide instruction.

Each LEA must maintain documentation of the LEA's implementation of the law for monitoring and audit purposes.



This guidance does not include all of the requirements of the new laws. Please review the new laws in their entirety in consultation with your LEA technology team and board attorney to ensure you are in full compliance with all requirements for providing remote instruction and conducting remote learning drills.

For questions regarding this guidance, please contact TDOE Chief Information Officer, Vijay.Gollapudi@tn.gov or General Counsel, Christy.Ballard@tn.gov.