

Comparison Guide – Blended Learning Declaration vs. Remote Learning Plan

There are many similarities between what is required for schools implementing blended learning and what is required in a remote learning plan. The following chart briefly outlines some of these similarities:

Topic/Component		BLENDED LEARNING DECLARATION		REMOTE LEARNING PLAN
		Community Schools	Traditional School Districts, STEM Schools, and Chartered Non-Public Schools	
Eligibility Considerations	Who Should Participate	Brick and mortar community schools that met the requirements established in ORC 3314.03(A)(29).	School districts (city, local, exempted village or joint vocational school districts), STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools. Educational Service Centers that serve preschool children on behalf of a school district should work with the districts they serve to determine if this is needed for the population of students they serve.	School districts (city, local, exempted village or joint vocational school districts), community schools (other than e-schools), and STEM schools that do not have a blended learning declaration on file with the Department. Educational Service Centers that serve preschool children on behalf of a school district should work with the districts they serve to determine if this is needed for the population of students they serve.
	Use of Declaration or Model	May be used as defined in the school’s contract with its sponsor.	May be used for all or part of a school or district.	May be used for all or part of a school or district.
	Action Required to Implement	File community school declaration form with the Department (signed by sponsor) and have the requirements of 3314.03(A)(29) outlined in the school’s contract.	File declaration form with the Department, adopt board approved policies.	Submit approved plan to the Department.
	Subject to Approval by the Department	No, however the Office of Community Schools will review the contract to ensure all requirements of ORC 3314.03(A)(29) are included.	No.	No.
	Due Date for the 2020-2021 School Year	November 1, 2020	November 1, 2020	August 21, 2020
Legal References	Statutory/Regulatory Authority	ORC 3301.079, 3302.41(A), 3314.03(A)(29), FTE Manual	ORC 3301.079, 3302.41, OAC 3301-35-03	House Bill 164, Section 16
Required Components of Model or Plan	Model Description	School contract must describe the blended learning model or models to be utilized.	<i>(Not required as part of declaration.)</i>	<i>(Not required as part of declaration.)</i>
	Student Instructional Needs and Personalization	School contract must include a description of how student instructional needs will be determined and documented.	Adopted policy must describe the means of personalization of student-centered learning models to meet the needs of each student.	The plan shall include the manner in which student instructional needs will be determined and documented.
	Student Progress and Competency, Credit and Promotion	Contract must include a statement describing how student progress will be monitored. The contract must also include information regarding the method(s) to be used for determining competency, granting credit and promoting students to higher grade levels.	Adopted policy shall include method of assessment of each participating student’s progress through the curriculum. Students shall be permitted to advance through each level of the curriculum based on demonstrated competency/mastery of the material.	The plan shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Method for determining competency, granting credit and promoting students to the next grade level.How student progress will be monitored.
	Attendance and Participation	The contract must include the school’s attendance requirements. Schools must document participation in learning opportunities and follow the guidance in the FY 21 FTE Manual.	Adopted policy should include the expectation for attendance and how the school will document participation in learning opportunities.	The plan shall include the school’s attendance requirements, including how the school will document participation in learning opportunities.

Topic/Component		Blended Learning Declaration	Remote Learning Plan
Protection of Student Data	The contract must include a statement describing how private student data will be protected.	(Not required as part of declaration.) Schools must comply with all data privacy protections in state and federal law including FERPA.	(Not required as part of plan.) Schools must comply with all data privacy protections in state and federal law including FERPA requirements.
Equitable Access	(Not required as part of the declaration.) Schools should follow the requirements in the Contract with their Sponsor and ensure that students have access to digital learning tools necessary to access the internet or computer-based content.	Adopted policy must describe the method by which each participating student will have access to the digital learning tools necessary to access the on-line or digital content.	Plan shall include the manner in which equitable access to quality instruction will be ensured.
Teacher Professional Development	The contract must include a description of the professional development activities that will be offered to teachers.	Adopted policy must describe the means by which the school will ensure that teachers have appropriate training in the pedagogy of the effective delivery of on-line or digital instruction.	Plan shall include a description of the professional development activities that will be offered to teachers.
Evaluation of Online Curriculum	(Not required as part of the declaration.) Schools must follow the expectations outlined in their contract with the sponsor.	Adopted policy must describe the evaluation and review of the quality of online curriculum delivered to students.	(Not required as part of plan.) Schools should follow all regular curriculum review procedures.
Staffing	Schools must follow the student/teacher ratios for in-person classroom time as stated in the school's contract.	Adopted policy must assure the assignment of a sufficient number of teachers to ensure a student has an appropriate level of interaction to meet the student's personal learning goals. Each participating student shall be assigned to at least one teacher of record. A school or classroom that implements blended learning cannot be required to have more than one teacher for every 125 students. All existing collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding staffing still apply.	(Not required in the plan.) All existing laws and collective bargaining agreement provisions regarding staffing apply.
Filtering Device or Software	(Not required as part of declaration.) Schools must continue to comply with applicable federal regulations, including the federal Child Internet Protection Act. Schools should be mindful of privacy controls and must continue to comply with applicable federal regulations to protect and secure student activity online.	Adopted policy must specify the means by which each school shall use a filtering device or install filtering software that protects against internet access to materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles on each computer provided to or made available to students for instructional use. The school shall provide such filtering device or software at no cost to any student who uses a device obtained from a source other than the school.	(Not required as part of plan.) Schools should be mindful of privacy controls and must continue to comply with applicable federal regulations to protect and secure student activity online, including the federal Child Internet Protection Act.
Effect on Minimum Hours and State Funding	Minimum Hours	Community schools are required to offer a minimum of 920 hours as required in ORC 3314.03(A)(11)(a).	School is exempt from school year hourly requirements in ORC 3313.48(A) to the extent that a school alters the hours it is open for instruction in order to accommodate blended learning opportunities that apply to all students.
	Funding	Community schools must document classroom and non-classroom-based learning opportunities and provide documentation to the Department annually as outlined in ORC 3314.08 (H) and the Department's FTE Manual .	No change to state foundation funding formula for public school districts, STEM schools or joint vocational districts.
			A school that implements a remote learning plan shall be considered to have complied with the minimum number of hours required under ORC 3313.48.
			A school that implements a remote learning plan shall be considered to have complied with any requirements to receive state foundation funding.