



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

**GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES:
STANDARDS FOR APPROVING DISTANCE LEARNING FOR STUDENTS POSSIBLY SUBJECT TO
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT, 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

Issued Nov. 9, 2021

This document provides the standards that local education agencies (LEA) should use to assess a student's likely success in a distance learning program and provides guidance for how LEAs can assess the Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect Form, 2021-22 School Year.

The decision whether to allow distance learning is made by the LEA. Decisions to admit a student into distance learning are based on the standards below **AND** on the available space, financial, and other operational considerations of an LEA.

An LEA may only approve distance learning in School Year 2021-22 for a student who may be subject to educational neglect if:

- CFSA or FCSSD have referred the student to the school pursuant to City Administrator's Order No. 2021-6.
- The family has completed the Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect Form, 2021-22 School Year and submitted it in accordance with LEA established timelines.
- If the LEA determines that the request demonstrates acceptable support in distance learning based on the following factors:
 - Has a clear and specific COVID-related rationale for distance learning.
 - Outlines sufficient steps that have been or will be taken by the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student's regular and timely participation in distance learning.
 - Outlines the way the student will receive age-appropriate supervision to ensure engagement in distance learning, and the student's proposed learning environment for distance learning is suitable for distance learning.
 - States that the student has or will have access to the appropriate computer hardware and internet bandwidth to support effective distance learning or includes a description of the supports for effective distance learning. **Note:** A student should not be denied distance learning due to the need for technology or internet services; LEAs, if they provide distance learning, should provide

appropriate computer hardware and internet access to the student if the student needs them.

The questions and responses on the Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect Form, 2021-22 School Year should be used to assess readiness and likelihood of success in distance learning. The rubric below may be used to assess these forms to make this determination. Requests made that demonstrate **Acceptable Support** in all categories should be prioritized as schools make the final determination about a student's access to distance learning.

Rubric for Reviewing Acceptable Support in Distance Learning

Categories	Weak Support	Some Support	Acceptable Support
Question 1: Rationale for Requesting Distance Learning	No COVID-related rationale for distance learning.	General COVID-related rationale for distance learning.	Clear and specific COVID-related rationale for distance learning
Question 2: Regular, timely participation in distance learning	Student has an unacceptable record of attendance in distance learning during the 2020-21 school year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student has a sufficient record of attendance in distance learning during the 2020-21 school year. • Clear and specific steps articulated for participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student has a strong record of attendance in distance learning during the 2020-21 school year. • Clear and specific steps articulated for participation
Question 3: Distance Learning Environment & Consistent supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear description or no evidence of a suitable learning environment for distance learning. • Unclear or no evidence of supervision in distance learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General description of a suitable learning environment for distance learning. • General description of daily supervision in distance learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and specific description of a suitable learning environment for distance learning • Clear and specific plan for providing daily supervision in distance learning
Question 4: Access to Technology	This question should not be evaluated for sufficiency. It should be used by the LEA/school to meet technology needs of the student should they be given access to distance learning.		

Process for Intake & Review

The process for intake and review will take cross agency collaboration between CFSA/FCSSD and LEAs and schools. Here are the expectations for this process:

Step 1: CFSA/FCSSD will notify parents/guardians that they are eligible to make a Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect. CFSA/FCSSD will provide parents/guardians with the form, and the form will also be located on the OSSE website for access.

Step 2: CFSA/FCSSD will notify the reporter who made the initial referral to CFSA/FCSSD that the family has submitted the Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect form. CFSA/FCSSD will also inform the Head of School of the notification.

Step 3: The parent/guardian completes the Request for Distance Learning for Students Possibly Subject to Educational Neglect form and submits it to the school for review.

Step 4: The LEA/school conducts the review of the request and makes the determination of whether to approve access to distance learning.

Step 5: Within 10 days of the notification from CFSA/FCSSD to the reporter and the head of school, the LEA/school should provide an update to CFSA/FCSSD of the request for distance learning. This update includes if the request has been approved, denied, still under review, or not submitted by the parent/guardian.

Step 6: If the request has been denied or the form was never submitted by the parent/guardian by January 26, 2022, the school will submit a new educational neglect report via CFSA's online Educational Neglect Reporting Form and indicate that the report is a re-referral. The form will have an option which indicates that the report is a re-referral.