

Distance Learning for ALL
Guidance for DHS Child Welfare Students in Foster Care
April 2020

ELEMENTS OF DISTANCE LEARNING FOR ALL

- ✓ Required by Governor Brown's [Executive Order 20-08](#)
- ✓ Focus is on care, connection and communication
- ✓ Distance learning is not just online learning. It includes regular student-teacher communication, focus on relevant learning and multiple modes of learning
- ✓ Each district is responsible for developing a distance learning plan that best meets the needs of their students, staff and available resources
- ✓ All materials needed to access Distance Learning for All will be provided by the school district
- ✓ Distance Learning for All goes into effect April 13, 2020 and continues as long as the Governor's order is in place
- ✓ Distance Learning for All: [Frequently Asked](#)
- ✓ Distance Learning For All: [Extended School Closure Guidance](#)
- ✓ Oregon's Extended School Closure Guidance: [Special Education](#)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **If a foster student enters foster care or moves foster homes (during the rest of this school year), should DHS attempt to obtain a Best Interest Finding to have the student attend the school of residence (school where they are living)?**

Since distance learning is an option through the end of the school year, DHS should have foster students continue in their current school distance program, for the remainder of the school year (when possible). There might be times, when this is not possible, such as in some residential treatment program placements or students returning to Oregon from out of state. If extenuating circumstances exist, DHS caseworkers should staff the case with their branch AAG. Students will have the best support, from the school, where they already know the student and their individual needs.

2. **How do I enroll a foster student who has not been attending school in Oregon?**

If a foster student, has not been attending school in Oregon, please contact the local, school district Foster Care Point of Contact, to discuss school enrollment procedures.

3. **How long will the schools be closed?**

Governor Brown extended all K-12 public school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 academic school year. She also directed Oregon's school districts to put in place Distance Learning for All. The focus will be on care, connection and continuity and ensuring that all 2020 senior are able to graduate and those that are credit deficient have a plan in place. More information on Distance Learning for All is located on the [ODE Website](#).

4. Will school districts be grading distance learning, and is it required to obtain credits towards graduation?

Although grading is a requirement of distance learning, each school district will set its own criteria. The school district Foster Care Point of Contact or school counselor should be able to provide additional information on the impact distance learning will have on a foster child's education.

5. Is there any accommodation for foster families to pick up things required by the district for distance learning (Chromebooks/iPads/learning packets), when distance is a barrier to the student's school?

Each school district is responsible for including, in its distance learning plan, the assurance that all students will have access to all materials necessary for distance learning. The Foster Care Point of Contact will work with district staff to make sure the foster student receives these materials. Some schools have been able to mail packets to students, and some DHS offices have been utilizing Social Service Assistants (SSA's), to pick up packets and technology.

6. How is technology dispersed and does it follow the student?

Each school district has an individual plan around the check-out and use of technology. Technology will be checked-out, and an agreement will be signed by foster parents. If the student leaves the foster home, before the end of the school year, please make sure technology is returned to the school/school district. A new agreement will need to be done with the new foster parent.

7. If a foster family has some of their children in one school district and other children in the school of origin, must each child comply with each districts distance learning plan? Can families choose to have all the children in their home use the same distance learning plan (even if kids go to other districts), for ease of the foster parent (if their ages are similar)?

Foster families, should make every effort for children in foster care, to do the distance learning program developed by each child's school/school district. If there are extenuating circumstances, which make this difficult, please have a conversation with the child's teacher, Foster Care Point of Contact, and the child's caseworker. Utilizing the students' school distance learning program, will help ensure credits are received.

8. If a foster student attends their school of origin (out of the school district), can the foster family obtain free and reduced meals at the closest location to their home?

Yes, free and reduced meals may be obtained at the location closest to the foster home.

9. If a child is in temporary lodging, and doesn't have a "parent" who is receiving emails and notifications from the school about the new distance learning, whom would the caseworker contact at the school district to receive information about accessing distance learning?

The caseworker should contact the school district Foster Care Point of Contact, at their most recent school, to receive information about accessing distance learning.

10. How will distance learning work if a family does not have access to internet?

Each district is responsible for including in its distance learning plan the assurance that all students will have access to internet.

11. If a foster child has high special needs and an intensive IEP, how will services be provided?

Equity and access are guiding principles of the Oregon's Distance Learning for ALL. Specific guidance and resources have been developed to assist schools and districts in meeting the needs of those students with special needs. Districts and schools should review student IEPs in context of the district's distance learning plan. Much more detailed information can be found in [Oregon's Extended School Closure Special Education Guidance](#).

12. Are Foster Care Points of Contacts still working during school closures? Can caseworkers and foster parents access them via their regular email?

Yes, Foster Care Points of Contact will be working the remainder of the school year. Caseworkers and foster parents should be able to reach them through their regular e-mail.

13. Is the school notification process still the same?

Yes, DHS caseworkers should send the school notification form to the School District, Foster Care Point of Contact, when students enter foster care or changes to placement are made.

14. Should the DHS caseworker change the school placement in OR-Kids to Home School?

No. Distance learning is different than home-schooling, and it is important that students are still connected to their school in the OR-Kids school placement section.

15. Where do I find the Foster Care Point of Contact Information?

The Foster Care Point of Contact Information is updated regularly on the ODE [website](#) (second bullet).

CONTACT

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