

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities

POLICY

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Effective Date: 03-18-20
Person Responsible: Director of Children's Services

Subject: Remote Learning
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Approvals/Date:

Handwritten signatures and dates: Brent C. Bae 4/21/2020, Board President, WCBDD; [Signature] 4/21/2020, Date

The mission statement of the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities is to support, empower, and inspire people. For students served at Wood Lane School, this includes a quality educational program uniquely designed around the needs of the student. Providing them with an environment that fosters and encourages their inquisitive nature is an important part of providing a high-quality learning experience. At Wood Lane School, value is placed on face-to-face interactions in which adults and students explore topics together and devise appropriate instruction based on individual learning goals. It is also understood that schools must challenge students with personalized academic experiences.

On March 12, 2020, Ohio Governor DeWine announced a closure of all Ohio schools due to the pandemic health crisis saying, "During this extended period of closure, schools should work to provide education through alternative means." The Ohio Department of Education interprets this statement to indicate that schools should try to make a good faith effort within available capabilities to support continued learning outside of school.

With the official closure of Ohio Schools on March 17, 2020, Wood Lane School will be authorized to provide remote learning experiences for its students using a variety of tools and resources. According to the Ohio Department of Education, remote learning should continuously support whole-child success and meaningful academic opportunities, while protecting the health and safety of students, parents, caregivers and educators. Remote learning is learning that occurs when the learner and educator, or source of the information, are separated by time and distance, and therefore, cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting. Remote learning as a broader term can include distance learning, online learning, virtual instruction, or remote training. This policy intentionally does not use the term distance learning, which is often internet-based instruction. Remote learning means each student is experiencing a learning opportunity supported by a teacher or educator who is in a different location. Remote learning opportunities can be deployed in a flexible manner. Ultimately students should be positioned to extend their learning with direction and guidance from their teachers.

A quality school is a "place" where parents, caregivers, community partners and others interact and collaborate to enhance the learning experiences of the students. Direct human interaction facilitates authentic learning, which cannot be replaced easily by remote learning. Remote learning should not be expected to replicate a traditional school day. However, to the extent possible, remote learning should support academic continuity for the students.

Designing systems that provide meaningful engagement in the learning process through remote learning enables Wood Lane School and the Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities to ensure student learning is continuous and ongoing outside of the walls of a traditional classroom.

References: Ohio Department of Education

Procedures: 02-WLS-ALL-0894 (AD)