

## Implementation Guidance for Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI)

In 2019, the state legislature passed SB604 ([Section 171.033, RSMo](#)) providing districts and charter schools with the ability to use an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan on days when there is an unexpected school and/or district closure.

Beginning in school year 2020-21, a local education agency (LEA) can make up school hours lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances (up to 36 hours) if an AMI Plan approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is implemented. The LEA must assure that the AMI Plan will positively impact teaching and learning in the LEA. LEAs must submit an AMI Plan for each school year of implementation. [Applications](#) must be submitted by June 15, 2020.

	<b>Key considerations when implementing an AMI Plan</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	LEAs may implement their AMI Plan in exceptional or emergency circumstances, which include but are not limited to: inclement weather, utility outages or an outbreak of contagious disease.
<b>Planning/Plan Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include building administrators, classroom teachers, technology staff, special education staff and others as appropriate in planning.</li> <li>• Allow flexibility whether the AMI Plan will be implemented virtually or through traditional methods.</li> <li>• Ensure that AMI is available to all students.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication with Parents/Students</b>	<p>If school is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances and the LEA has an approved AMI Plan, the LEA shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce AMI early in the school year and revisit it before its use.</li> <li>• Determine how the LEA will communicate its plans for AMI and the frequency of communication.</li> <li>• Notify students and parents on each day of the closure whether the AMI Plan is to be implemented for that day.</li> <li>• Determine what methods are most effective to communicate the purpose and expectations to parents/guardians and students.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication with Teachers and Certified Staff</b>	<p>Ensure teachers and other certified personnel are available to communicate with students on AMI days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and, if necessary, establish LEA policy on student/teacher electronic communication.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Attendance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of AMI for up to 36 hours during the school year.</li> <li>• Count the hours of AMI as hours in which school was in session.</li> <li>• Tie attendance to the completion of work. Determine how and when students will turn in assignments.</li> <li>• Prorate attendance based upon the number of assignments completed.</li> </ul> <p>For more information about attendance, please see the <a href="#">Attendance Hour Reporting Document</a>.</p>
<p><b>Students with Disabilities</b></p>	<p>The instructional plan on AMI days for students with disabilities is documented on each individual student’s individual education program (IEP), according to the guidance developed by DESE’s Office of Special Education. For special considerations about planning for students with IEPs, please see: “<a href="#">Implementation guidance for alternate methods of instruction (AMI) days for students with disabilities</a>.”</p>
<p><b>Instruction/Materials/Resources</b></p>	<p>Determine and establish what materials and assignments the LEA will use to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify assignments and materials are accessible to students.</li> <li>• Ensure that each student receives assignments for that day in hard copy form or receives instruction through either virtual learning or another method of instruction.</li> </ul> <p>The LEA will strengthen and reinforce instructional content while supporting student learning outside of the school environment through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review or reinforcement of previously taught skills.</li> <li>• Introduction of new concepts.</li> </ul> <p>Determine the type of AMI to be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider types of instruction used on non-AMI days.</li> <li>• Consider use of methods which have demonstrated effectiveness for students.</li> <li>• Use methods developmentally appropriate for each grade/age of student.</li> </ul> <p>Determine if technology will be used to deliver instruction in AMI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider student accessibility to both technology and the internet.</li> <li>• Create alternate plans for students without access to technology and/or the internet.</li> </ul>

For questions, please contact either the Office of Quality Schools at 573-751-4104 or Special Education Compliance at 573-751-0699.