

Administrative Memo

Date: February 26, 2020
To: School Administrators
From: Lori Sallee, director, Missouri School Improvement Program
Subject: QS-20-002 – Alternative Methods of Instruction

Beginning in school year 2020-21, a local education agency (LEA) will not be required to make up school hours that are lost or cancelled due to exceptional or emergency circumstances (up to 36 hours) if the LEA implements an Alternative Methods of Instruction (AMI) Plan that is approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) (see [Section 171.033, RSMo](#)). LEAs must assure that the plan will favorably impact teaching and learning to receive DESE approval. LEAs will be required to submit an AMI Plan for each school year of implementation.

The Office of Quality Schools will begin accepting AMI Plans for review immediately. Plans for the 2020-21 school year must be submitted no later than June 15, 2020. The AMI Plan Application can be found here: <https://modese.wufoo.com/forms/alternative-methods-of-instruction-application/>.

The Office of Quality Schools and the Office of Special Education have created guidance documents to assist LEAs wishing to utilize this provision during the 2020-21 school year. The guidance documents and AMI Plan application can be found here: <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/alternative-methods-instruction>.

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