

Administrative Memo

Date: October 9, 2020
To: School Administrators
From: Chris Neale, assistant commissioner, Office of Quality Schools
Subject: QS-20-011 – Distanced Learning – 4/1 Plans

Many school districts and charter schools in Missouri are implementing approved Alternate Methods of Instruction – Extended (AMI-X) plans during the 2020-21 school year. These plans use patterns of instruction that are new to the district/charter and are designed to protect public health while students continue to receive a high-quality education. School districts and charter schools are then adjusting these patterns of instruction based on local public health conditions.

To help accommodate these alternate patterns, the State Board of Education authorized a rule on July 7, 2020, [5 CSR 30-660.085](#). The rule indicates that school districts and charter schools may use, among other methods, a fixed blended model of instruction that reduces the number of days that individual students receive onsite instruction if this alternate pattern reduces the number of students physically present at any given time and allows for better social distancing.

Because the rule intends to facilitate effective social distancing, the Department has not provided automatic approval of AMI-X plans that provide instruction onsite four days a week and one day distanced, with all students at school on the same four days each week. However, districts/charters have demonstrated that there are instances in which the purposes of [5 CSR 30-660.085](#) can be accomplished using a four-day week. The rule allows local education agencies to request approval for alternative patterns of instruction. If you believe that your plan meets these expectations, please submit your request for review to msip@dese.mo.gov. Requests should include:

1. Average class size information for the grade levels affected.
2. Assurances that the plan facilitates social distancing.
3. Assurances that public health and local/community requirements will be met.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Konnie Koenigsfeld at 573-751-1362 or Jocelyn Strand at 573-751-4104.