

# Waiver Application Packet



As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of school buildings, school districts must submit an application to waive 2019-2020 attendance requirements in order to receive exemption from KSA 72-3115. (1,116 attendance hours for all students and 1,086 attendance hours for high school seniors)

To apply for the waiver, you must complete and submit by April 8th the following items contained within this document:

1. Waiver Application
2. Assurances Document
3. Continuous Learning Plan Application

**All required documents must be emailed as a single package to [CLPlan@ksde.org](mailto:CLPlan@ksde.org) by Wednesday, April 8, 2020.**

Please direct questions to the following:

- Waiver Application: [ddennis@ksde.org](mailto:ddennis@ksde.org)
- Plan for Continuous Learning: [mmiller@ksde.org](mailto:mmiller@ksde.org)

To access Continuous Learning guidance documents and resources, visit:  
<https://sites.google.com/ksde.org/kansascontinuouslearning2020/home>

# Application to Waive 2019-2020 Attendance Requirements



Date March 30, 2020

School District Name Atchison County Community Schools, USD 377

Superintendent name Dr. Andrew K Gaddis

Board President name: Mrs. Lori Lanter

1. Who closed your schools? (Check all applicable)

- County Health Department
- Secretary of Health and Environment
- Governor
- Military Base Commander

2. How many hours was your school district open during the 2019-20 school year?

840 hours

3. How many hours are you requesting be waived from school term of 1,116 hours for the 2019-20 school year?

276 hours

## NOTE

A continuous learning plan must be submitted as part of this waiver request in order to receive approval.

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# Assurances Document



Date March 30, 2020

School District Name Atchison County Community Schools, USD 377

This assurances document needs to be returned to KSDE with your request to waive attendance requirements and your continuous learning plan no later than Wednesday April 8, 2020, to indicate that the district will adopt a plan to ensure continuous learning for all students through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

USD 377 hereby assures the Kansas State Board of Education it will follow the requirements for a Continuous Learning Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year:

1. USD 377 assures the State Board that it will develop a continuous learning plan that will meet the Kansas requirement for a waiver of the minimum requirement of 1,116 hours of school.
2. USD 377 assures the State Board that it will pay all current hourly employees during the balance of the 2019-2020 school year based on the plan developed and approved by the local Board of Education.
3. USD 377 assures the State Board that it will send the Continuous Learning Plan to the Kansas State Department of Education on or before April 8, 2020.
4. USD 377 assures the State Board that it will enroll all new students according to the state statute and the school district's enrollment policies and provide an educational plan for all new students for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year.
5. USD 377 assures the State Board that it will apply a health and safety policy limiting the opportunity for students, staff and families to be exposed to potential pathogens that could lead to illness.

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President, Board of Education

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Superintendent of Schools

*Please print this document and sign.*

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# Continuous Learning Plan Application



Date March 30, 2020

School District Name Atchison County Community Schools, USD 377

## Academic Support

Briefly describe the Professional Development plan for Continuous Learning.

The USD 377 Administrative team met and created a plan for providing continued professional development for all staff on March 17, 18 & 19. During this time it was determined that to provide better assistance to our staff as a whole, we needed to create a smaller group at each building to guide and direct the professional learning. These groups met on Friday March 20th to formulate a plan for the whole staff professional learning as well as develop what continuous learning will look like for the students of USD 377.

Please describe how you will ensure continuous learning is available for every student.

We followed the guidelines laid out in the Continuous Learning Plan provided by the task force, which included surveying our families as to access, planning learning activities that met the timeframe guidance at each grade level, created office hours where students, parents, and teachers can all interact, and made accommodations for students with needs, both academically and in regards to technology access. .

Will online learning be used?

USD 377 will utilize online learning as one mode of learning for the remainder of the school year. Students in pK - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will use SeeSaw while students in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will utilize Google Classroom as their primary platform.

If so, is tech support available for families and teachers?

USD 377 will have a full time technology coordinator available to assist students, teachers and parents with technological questions or assistance. Current teachers who are proficient

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in Instructional Technology will also be a resource for teachers during lesson planning and for troubleshooting.

If so, how will you ensure that all students have adequate access to devices and internet?

A survey of all current students was conducted to determine those who were in need of devices for learning as well as those who did not have internet access. A school owned chromebook will be provided for all students who are in need of a device. Those families who lack internet will be provided with physical copies of materials and resources. USD 377 is working with a local internet provider to offer local hot spots in some of our communities.

Please describe additional measures you will take to support students with disabilities, and students served under Title Programs (ELL, Migrant, etc.).

We believe communication with our families of students with disabilities and Title Programs is critical, so we created a communication plan including documentation to be sure we make continual and consistent contact with these students and families. In addition, we created office hours for our special education and title staff for families for direct communication. Our special educator and Title teachers also collaborate with our general education teachers to ensure the needs of ALL our students are being met by having access to the materials and make accommodations and providing support. .

How will teachers check-in with students?

Teachers will monitor activity completion and contact those students who do not seem to be participating. We will utilize our House System at the Elementary School and PAWS groups at the Jr-Sr High School to contact students and determine struggles or needs.

Describe your plans for continued Career and Technical Education.

Teachers will use current, real-world experiences as curriculum. They will continue to collaborate with teachers in-district so that a collaborative project may give credit in more than one class simplifying the workload for students and showing the ways CTE incorporates each and every one of the core subjects. Teachers are nesting some classes within Pathways to cross-teach some projects and applications, again, to reduce the workload of students who might already be in two or more Pathways. Teachers are focused on encouraging behaviors/workplace skills as outcomes, rather than specific content. Students are focusing on awareness and development of their workplace skills through virtual field trips, remote conversations with mentors or job shadow partners, etc. Teachers are collaborating with other CTE educators via bi-weekly Zoom meetings to

share content and ideas for lessons, as well as PBL and cross-curricular projects. The CTE teachers each have previously established social media groups, pathway designed groups, and other collaborative groups/sites to gather ideas and teaching methods to use throughout the closure. CTE teachers serve as resources for other core and electives teachers as experts in the field of project based learning in their classrooms and through work-based learning.

Do you have a plan in place to address graduation for seniors?

At this time, the current Commencement Ceremony has not been cancelled. We are continually monitoring the current situation and will make a determination closer to that time. We will attempt to postpone the ceremony before cancelling it so that the Senior class and their families can celebrate their accomplishments. .

## Social and Emotional Supports

How will you utilize counselors and social workers?

Counselors, social workers, and current community mental health partners will continue to offer services to our students. They will utilize online discussion and activity groups for students who have access to internet and for those who don't they will utilize personalized check-ins and provide learning activities that are age and grade level appropriate that reinforce the continuation of social, emotional, and academic skills.

How will you support students' social-emotional needs?

Our small group checkins via the House System and PAWS will serve as a means of keeping track of student who may begin to have social-emotional needs. These flags will be relayed to our counselors or other professionals depending on the severity.

How will you engage families and caregivers in supporting the social-emotional needs of their children?

Our staff will provide families with consistent communication, as well as guidance and support in talking with their children about coronavirus. Our staff will consider the different needs of students and families when making response plans and connect them to the necessary resources. This includes ensuring that response plans will fully meet the needs of students and families who are homeless or in transitional living situations, may not have easy access to computers or the internet, receive free or reduced-price meals through school, or rely on support services at their schools.

## Family Community Communication

How will you keep families informed?

Early communication with parent came from District wide updates on Social Media, School Webiste and via text alerts. This soon transitiion into parent - teacher communicaitons as th continuous learning plan was developed.

How will you collect feedback from families?

Feedback will continue to be obtained through the channels described above. Modifications will be made based off of the feedback to make the learning appropriate for each individual situation..

How will you evaluate the validity of the feedback and respond?

We will rely on personal connections with both parents and students to determine what feedback is valid and a determination will lbe made based off of those interactions.

How will you support families and caregivers as they facilitate learning at home?

Our focus is to remain flexible and supportive by providing relevant and engaging activities that families can feel comfortable working on together. Teachers will set up regular schedules to provide support.

## Other

How will you reflect, monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this plan and the results?

Each student will have a minimum of one verbal contact a week with a teacher from the district. We will use information from these conversations to adapt and improve our plan to meet the needs of our students

Please describe the measures you will take in collaboration with your local county health department to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families.

Continuous interactions between the State and local health departments, emergency management and KSDE will occur. USD 377 will continue to adhere to all recommendations and orders by the local, state, and national agencies. .

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Superintendent Signature

Date

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Board of Education President Signature

Date

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**Please direct questions to the following:**

Plan for Continuous Learning: [mmiller@ksde.org](mailto:mmiller@ksde.org)