



2019-20 Frequently Asked Questions for 9th - 11th grade during COVID Closure

(To see full document on LDOE website, please visit :

https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/covid-19-resources/covid-19-faq-k-12-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=91d39b1f_69

Q: Are school systems required to offer distance learning, or is this optional? Will a school system be penalized for not providing formal distance education and instead providing access to materials and resources? Will days or minutes need to be made up?

*A: School systems are not required to offer distance learning. Schools may offer complete distance learning, as capabilities exist. The required 63,720 instructional minute requirement per year shall also be suspended and minutes will **not** have to be made up.*

At Sci High, we recognize that continued learning and academic growth are critical components of student well-being. Routines and connections with educators provide stability, security, and structure that can keep our students active, engaged, and healthy. As the Sci High mission states, our goal is to “provide a rigorous high school curriculum....that prepares students....for postsecondary pursuits.” Therefore we have developed and implemented an ongoing learning plan in partnership with teachers and families. Sci High teachers are continuing to share lessons via online learning to ensure that students maintain skills and proficiency and will keep track of which students are participating.

Q: Do schools have to check attendance daily while utilizing distance or alternative learning methods during mandatory school closures?

A: The provisions that require daily attendance be taken at schools at the beginning of each school day and start of each class period have been suspended for the current school year.

Due to the current CCOVID-19 concerns and subsequent proclamation by Gov. John Bel Edwards, regulatory flexibilities have been granted that enable students to complete the school year and graduate without penalty. Therefore, Sci High will not take daily attendance during this ongoing learning period. Sci High teachers are, however, continuing to share lessons via online learning to ensure that students maintain skills and proficiency and will keep track of which students are participating.



Q: Are students required to participate in distance learning if it is offered?

A: School systems may offer distance education and may keep track of which students are participating.

Again, Sci High will continue to provide ongoing learning for students to ensure that students continue to make strides during this closure. Sci High teachers will continue to share lessons via online learning to ensure that students maintain skills and proficiency and will keep track of which students are participating.

Q: What options can schools provide to help students meet credit requirements?

A: School systems should determine if students have demonstrated proficiency in the grade-level content and/or courses to award credit. If it is determined that they have not, schools can provide options that can help students meet credit requirements via distance learning options, online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, portfolios, proficiency exams, or work-based learning (where current high school course standards align with a student's job).

Sci High course instructors will create proficiency exams for students to demonstrate proficiency in the grade level content and/or each course to award. If a student is determined not to have met proficiency, Sci High will provide options which can help students meet requirements via online course work, written work packets, project based learning, or portfolios.

Q: How are Carnegie units addressed under minutes requirements? Will Carnegie credit be awarded by grade only?

A: Bulletin 741 §2314 Instructional Minute Requirements for Course Credit have been waived. Students can earn Carnegie credit by successfully completing all course requirements for the distance education courses authorized by the school system.

According to the Louisiana Department of Education, "School systems will determine if students have demonstrated proficiency in the grade-level content and/or course to award credit." For Sci High, this means that proficiency exams will be factored into students' final grades for the semester.

Q: What if a student is currently failing a course?



A: For students that have not met minimum levels of proficiency, schools should have them participate in additional distance or alternative learning options to complete unfinished learning and demonstrate proficiency.

If a student is determined not to have met proficiency, Sci High will provide options which can help students meet requirements and may include online course work, written work packets, project based learning, portfolios, summer school, or intensive remediation bootcamps.

Assessment and Accountability

Q: How will the state handle testing as schools are closed?

A: On March 20, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education [approved Louisiana's waiver request](#) of assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act. This means Louisiana will not require standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. Moreover, since testing data is required to be used in accountability systems, like Louisiana's annual report cards, the state will also exclude testing data from performance measures for the current school year.

The LEAP 2025 high school assessment waivers apply to all Sci High students who would have taken the tests for the first time, including graduating seniors (seniors graduating by August 31, 2020), and those students eligible under Act 833. However, this recommendation will not apply to students who need to retake an assessment that they previously failed, and it will not apply to students who earn a credit in summer school.

Q: Has the state and national test administration of ACT been rescheduled?

A: Yes. The state administration of ACT has been rescheduled for June 2. This would be for all students in grade 11 and seniors who have no ACT score on file with the Department (see ACT No Match list). Seniors with an ACT score can test at the expense of the school system. Because no SPS will be released this fall, there is no penalty for grade 12 students who do not have an ACT on file for 2019-2020.

The national administration of ACT has been rescheduled for June 13.

All individuals who were registered to take the ACT in April will receive emails from ACT with directions

for free rescheduling. Information is available on ACT's website.

Sci High 11th Graders who would have taken the state administered ACT on March 17th will now take the exam on June 2nd . We are still awaiting details from the state for that exam.

Q: What guidance has the College Board provided for spring 2020 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams?

A: The College Board released information on Friday, March 20, 2020. In-person exams are canceled and instead a 45-minute AP exam will be taken online at home.

Sci High students can still take the AP exams, and if they pass earn college credit. The test will only be on about 75 percent of the course content, of which every AP teacher at Sci High had nearly completed before schools shut down. All tests are 45 minutes can be taken from any smart device. All Sci High students who are currently enrolled in AP courses will receive separate, detailed information on this year's administration of the AP Exams.

Student Technology Support

Q: How can we help students access computers?

A: Schools need to review their current device policies to decide if students will be able to utilize school-owned student devices at home in order to continue learning opportunities. To address school system/school concerns relative to tracking and managing school devices off-campus, the Department is working with Absolute Software to create a low-cost offering that will provide hardware tracking, monitoring, and reporting as well as investigating and recovering stolen/missing devices.

Sci High has made Chromebook laptops available to any student who indicated that they did not have access to a computer at home. Laptops have been distributed each Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 2:00 pm from the school.

Q: What resources are available if students do not have internet at home and/or need assistance with accessing the Internet?

A: FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has launched the “Keep Americans Connected Pledge,” which many broadband carriers have signed. For the next 60 days, its provisions will:



- not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
- waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them. Additionally, limited income households can apply for \$5 to \$10 per month internet access (
- [AT&T Access](#) , [Cox Connect2Compete](#) , [CenturyLink Lifeline](#)). [Charter Communication](#) will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a subscription.

NOLA-Public Schools purchased 5000 T-Mobile Hotspots and has allocated schools a very limited number. Hotspots will be made available to Sci High students who indicate that they do not have access to reliable internet service.