



ECPS Blended Attendance Q and A

⇒ What is Blended Attendance?

- All K-12 students will participate in blended attendance using the designated virtual platform for the 2020-2021 school year. The implementation of blended attendance will allow flexibility for both students and teachers, have a significant impact on our county's attendance accountability piece, and will minimize the number of students coming to school when ill.

⇒ How is blended attendance different from our regular attendance policy?

- All ECPS student must adhere to the ECPS Student Attendance Policy/Procedures in conjunction with the Blended Attendance Policy. For example, any student in grades K-12 who accumulates seven (7) excuses that have not been verified by a physician's statement, may be required, at the discretion of the principal, to secure a physician's statement for all future absences. For a full overview of the Elmore County Student Attendance Policy, please visit p. 9 of the Elmore County Student Handbook & Code of Conduct.
- Students who successfully adhere to the Blended Attendance guidelines will have their attendance in iNOW changed from absent to VE/E-Present.

⇒ What virtual platform will be used to assign work, pull grades, and track attendance for blended attendance?

- When students are absent from school, they will be instructed to complete lessons via the virtual platform.
 - K-5 - Odysseyware
 - 6-12 - Edgenuity

⇒ How should the classroom teacher plan for blended attendance?

- Teachers will simultaneously complete lesson plans and set up virtual lessons via the virtual platform on a weekly basis.
- Lesson plans with the included virtual assignments are due by 8:00 a.m. on Monday mornings.
- All lesson plans must include a short description of the virtual assignments for the week. The following is an example of a 7th grade student's virtual assignment for life science:
 - **Monday:** Edgenuity, Biomes (Warm-up, Instruction, Assignment)
 - **Tuesday:** Edgenuity, Cycles on Matter (Warm-up, Instruction, Assignment, Quiz)
 - **Please note:** Teachers should be conscientious about the amount of work assigned using the virtual platform. For example, Monday's science lesson should not require 4 hours of computer time to complete for a 50 minute traditional lesson.
- In addition to lesson plans that include the virtual assignments, teachers should post virtual assignments in their classroom, teacher webpage, and/or REMIND,



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so that they are readily available for students, parents, and/or substitutes in the event of an absence.

- With Edgenuity (6-12 grade), virtual lessons will be assigned by the week. When students are absent they should complete the virtual assignment for the day.
 - With Edgenuity, free movement will allow students to skip around.
 - For example, if a student is absent on Thursday of a week, they only need to complete all of Thursday's lesson (not Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday lessons, too).
 - Because of free movement, it is imperative that teachers make it abundantly clear to students that students must complete all components of the assignment (warm-up, instruction, assignment, quiz, etc.) for the designated day to get credit for the day. If a student does not complete all components of the lesson for the day with 60% accuracy, they will not get credit for the day.
 - If a student only completes the quiz, but **NOT** the warm-up, instruction, and assignment, they do not receive credit for that day.
- With Odysseyware (K-5), teachers will assign lessons to students **only when they have been absent from school.**

⇒ What other ways are teachers expected to use virtual lessons/assignments through Odysseyware and Edgenuity?

- Virtual assignments will be used in the event the teacher is absent (i.e. these will serve as sub plans.)
- Virtual assignments should be assigned to the entire a class weekly, so that students are acclimated to the virtual platform.

⇒ What is the procedure for students to complete work for blended attendance?

- When students are absent from school, they are to complete the virtual assignment within 3 days of returning back to school (flexibility should be granted for absences of five (5) or more consecutive days).

⇒ What procedure will schools follow to document/track blended attendance?

- Once a student has completed all components of the lesson for a specific day, their attendance will be adjusted and marked as being present for that day (VE).
- The school should put a system in place for Blended Attendance.
 - This system should accurately document and track Blended Attendance Days, known as Virtual Engagement Days.
 - Once a student has completed all components of a virtual lesson when absent, the teacher will notify the attendance clerk. For example, printing out an Odysseyware/Edgenuity Progress Report/Activity Report.



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- The attendance clerk will go into iNOW and change the student's absence to a VE day.
 - VE days are virtual engagement days in which students will be considered present at school.
 - VE days do not count against exemption.
 - VE days do not count against perfect attendance.

⇒ How will grades be pulled for blended attendance?

- If a grade was taken in class the day a student was out of school, the teacher will record the grade earned from the virtual assignment in iNOW. For example, if a 7th grade student scores an 80% on the biomes assignment in Edgenuity and a daily grade was taken in the classroom that day on biomes, the teacher would record a daily grade of 80% in iNOW.

⇒ Can a student be absent from school when tests, projects, and presentations are due and complete the work on virtual platform in lieu of the tests, project, or presentation?

- In the event that a test, project, or presentation was due on the day a student was absent, the student must do the work via the virtual platform to get credit for a VE day. However, the teacher still reserves the right to require the student to complete the tests, project, or presentation at school.
- VE days should never be used as a way to get out of completing tests, projects, or presentation.