

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RULES GOVERNING AVAILABILITY DISTANCE LEARNING**

May 24, 2004

1.00 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These rules shall be known as Arkansas Department of Education Rules to Ensure the Availability of Efficient Scheduling of Courses Offered by Public Schools Through Distance Learning Technologies.

1.02 These rules are enacted pursuant to the State Board of Education's authority under Arkansas Code Ann. § 6-11-105 and Act 53 of the 84th General Assembly Second Extraordinary Session.

2.00 PURPOSE

2.01 It is the purpose of these rules to set reasonable guidelines to make distance learning available to every Arkansas student who wishes to participate and to facilitate efficient scheduling of distance learning courses offered by public schools.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these rules:

3.01 "Bell schedule" is the daily schedule of classes including the time each class is scheduled to begin and end.

4.00 DISTANCE LEARNING AND LOCAL SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES

4.01 In order to assist school districts in scheduling distance learning courses, make distance learning available to every Arkansas student and coordinate distance learning class schedules of course providers, the Department shall:

4.01.1 Annually work with Arkansas school districts and distance learning course providers to determine the best possible distance learning bell schedule(s) to meet the scheduling needs of school districts;

4.02.1 Require school districts providing distance learning courses to adopt a bell schedule consistent with the distance learning course providers that permits students to optimally participate in distance learning and local courses. The school's bell schedule must be aligned with the distance learning provider's class schedule in such a way that it will permit students to take both distance learning classes and locally scheduled classes. Students must be able to consistently join classes on either schedule within the first five minutes or not leave the classes more than five minutes before the scheduled end of the class so that no more than five minutes of any class is missed.

5.00 DISTANCE LEARNING AND LOCAL DISTRICT CALENDARS

5.01 In order to assist school districts in scheduling distance learning courses, make distance learning available to every Arkansas student, and coordinate distance learning calendars of course providers, the Department shall:

5.01.1 Annually work with Arkansas school districts and distance learning course providers to determine the best possible distance learning calendar(s) to meet the distance learning scheduling needs of school districts;

5.02.1 Require school districts providing distance-learning courses to adopt a calendar and bell schedule consistent with the distance learning course provider's course schedule that permits students to optimally participate in distance learning and local courses. The school's local calendar must be designed in a manner that will permit students to take both distance learning courses and local school courses. The local school calendar and the calendar of any distance learning course provider that the school is using to offer courses must align in such a way that students taking distance learning courses are able to participate in the courses without missing more than five days. The policy for making up any missed days will be determined by the distance learning course provider.