



FAST FACTS: Updated Remote Learning Guidance from TN Education Commissioner

Tennessee Education Commissioner, Penny Schwinn, released guidance regarding waiver requests for consideration to **temporarily transition a classroom or school** from in-person to remote instruction due to COVID-19.

What does the Commissioner's announcement about possible waivers for virtual learning mean for Shelby County Schools (SCS)?

Commissioner Schwinn's guidance reiterates that only an individual classroom or school buildings may shift to remote instruction temporarily due to COVID-19 exposure with a documented waiver. **Based on the current TN State Board rules, entire school districts are NOT permitted to transition to full remote/virtual instruction.**

If a waiver to temporarily close a school is granted, what happens under the TN Board Rule?

A school that is permitted by the State to close due to the impact of COVID-19 exposure may shift to remote learning for a specified period of time (*temporarily*). **According to Commissioner Schwinn's guidance, in the event of a school closure, school athletics and extracurricular activities will be cancelled during the school closure period.**

How are individual students in quarantine receiving instruction when the entire class is not impacted?

The Commissioner's waiver process is not required for individual students on quarantine to receive remote instruction. Since the start of the 2021-22 SY, **SCS has continued to provide a continuity of asynchronous (independent study) instruction through multiple learning platforms for students in quarantine or isolation.**

If a child has not tested positive or been quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure, what is the option for virtual learning?

- **In accordance with State guidance, all students are expected to attend school in-person.**
- The school choice enrollment period for Memphis Virtual School has ended.
- **Entire school districts are not permitted to transition to remote/virtual instruction** or offer virtual options for students unless they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- SCS is also currently exploring ways to petition the TDOE and state legislators to allow additional virtual learning options under our Continuous Learning Plan (CLP).