



# SB 15 Overview Webinar

September 17, 2021

*Introductions & Agenda*

*Webinar Framing*

*SB 15 LEA Requirements*

*SB 15 Student Eligibility Requirements*

*Proposed SAAH Changes*

*Questions and Answers*

*Next Steps*



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**Megha Kansra**  
Director of District  
Systems Support and  
Innovation



**Nichole Aguirre**  
Director of Special  
Projects for District  
Systems Support and  
Innovation



**Joe Herrera**  
Manager of Student  
Attendance Accounting  
Handbook and SHARS

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*Senate Bill 15 (SB 15) was signed into law on September 9, 2021.*

Local educational agencies (LEAs) may now receive full ADA funding for students who attend local remote learning programs that meet the requirements set by SB 15.

In effect through September 1, 2023.

# What does SB 15 allow?

Modality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Synchronous instruction</li><li>• Asynchronous instruction</li><li>• Combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction</li></ul>
Grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• K-12</li></ul>
Retroactive funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For LEAs who met all requirements of SB 15 in SY21-22, retroactive funding prior to bill passage for remote learning delivered</li></ul>
Additional flexibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hybrid learning: Mix of on-campus and remote instruction is allowable</li><li>• Ability to contract with another LEA</li></ul>

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# LEAs must meet key requirements in order to receive funding under SB 15



## LEA Eligibility

- C or higher performance rating



## Program Requirements

- At least one STAAR-assessed grade level, *or* complete high school program
- Provide families an on-campus option
- Administer assessments to remote students in same manner as on-campus students



## Teacher Requirements

- Professional development on virtual instruction
- No concurrent instruction

# LEAs may only enroll up to 10% of their total enrollment in a local remote learning program

## Who counts toward the 10% cap?

- Any student who enrolled for even a portion of the year in local remote instruction under SB 15
- Any student who received more than 50% of instructional days via remote learning, including students who are:
  - Medically fragile
  - Placed in a remote learning setting by an admission, review, and dismissal committee
  - Receiving accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Served via remote conferencing

# LEAs will receive local remote learning program evaluation ratings

- Local remote learning program A-F evaluation ratings
- Publicly posted
- Counts as enrolled students who spent at least half of their instructional days receiving remote instruction

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# For a student to count toward ADA under SB 15, certain eligibility requirements must be met (1 of 2)

Based on student information from the preceding school year, if a student received remote instruction for a majority of their instructional days in the previous school year, they also must have:

- Achieved satisfactory achievement or higher on each STAAR assessment administered.
- Had a number of unexcused absences that is 10 percent or fewer out of all instructional days.
- Earned a grade of C or higher in the foundation curriculum courses taken virtually or remotely in the preceding school year.

# For a student to count toward ADA under SB 15, certain eligibility requirements must be met (2 of 2)

If a student did *not* receive a majority of their instructional time in the preceding school year via remote instruction, then the criteria noted above do not apply to determine student eligibility for remote learning. However, criteria noted in the next section apply to all students.

*Based on student information from the current school year:*

- The student is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school.
- The student has reasonable access to in-person services at a district or school facility.
- The student has fewer than 10 unexcused absences over a six-month period.

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## Proposed SAAH Language on Virtual Instruction

- Remote Synchronous Instruction
  - Remote Synchronous Present Code (PEIMS)
- Remote Asynchronous Instruction
  - Remote Asynchronous Present Code (PEIMS)
- Combination of both
  - Attendance is taken during synchronous instruction



## Synchronous Attendance

- Daily Official Attendance Taking Time (OAT)
- Camera must be On and teacher must see the student face-to-face
- Student not present during the OAT but shows up later in the day, is still absent for ADA funding purposes
- 2 to 4 hour rule for ADA funding

## Asynchronous Attendance

- Engagement for attendance purposes can take place between 12:00am-11:59pm OR at a narrower timeframe in accordance with local policy
- 2 to 4 hour rule for ADA funding
- Student must show that they accessed instruction
  - LMS logs
  - daily teacher/student interaction
  - daily completion/turn-in assignments to teacher from student (email or online)

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# FYI: Remote Conferencing is another available option for remote learning

These two requirements must be met:

- The student is unable to attend school because of a **temporary medical condition**, and
- The total amount of remote conferencing instruction **does not exceed more than 20 instructional days** over the entirety of the school year.

In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is **documented by a physician** licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital
- The student has a **positive test** result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7, or
- The student has been identified as having been in **close contact** with COVID-19.

# Remote Conferencing vs. Remote Learning under SB 15

	Remote Conferencing	Local Remote Learning Program (SB 15)
<b>Enrollment Cap</b>	No Cap <i>(However, if a student receives remote conferencing for more than 50% of their instructional days, they count toward the 10% cap within SB 15)</i>	Up to 10% of LEA Enrollment
<b>Timeframe</b>	Temporary Learning Option (Cannot exceed 20 instructional days without a waiver)	Can be used for temporary or long term remote learning
<b>PEIMS Coding</b>	PEIMS Attendance Code 1-6	PEIMS Attendance Code 1-6
<b>LEA Eligibility</b>	Available to all LEAs	Only Available to LEAs with C or Higher Performance Rating
<b>Mode of Instruction Constraints</b>	Synchronous Instruction for a minimum of 2 hours for elementary students and 4 hours for secondary school students	Synchronous, Asynchronous, or Combination of synchronous/asynchronous, with requirements as defined in the <i>SAAH</i>
<b>Concurrent Instruction</b>	No Concurrent Instruction (teacher instructing remote and on-campus students at the same time, in the same class period)	

# Key Resources and Links

To The Administrator Addressed letter:

- [https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/TAA\\_SB-15.pdf](https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/TAA_SB-15.pdf)

*Student Attendance Accounting Handbook* proposed language:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Virtual-Learning.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions document:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/sb15-faq.pdf>

Remote Conferencing guidance and FAQs:

- <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/remote-conferencing-faq.pdf>

Please use this  
Smartsheet to  
enter your SB  
15 related  
questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/sb15web>



The SB 15 FAQ was released on September 16, 2021 and will continue to be updated with all questions.



## Senate Bill 15 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Overview:

This FAQ addresses questions related to Senate Bill (SB) 15, which was signed by the governor on September 9, 2021. SB 15 allows for LEAs to receive full ADA for remote instruction meeting requirements set by SB 15 offered at any time during 2020-21 school year. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has released a [To the Administrator Addressed \(TAA\) letter](#) with an overview of SB 15, relevant [proposed Student Attendance Accounting Handbook language](#), and upcoming Texas Education Agency (TEA) supports for LEAs seeking to learn more.

LEAs have begun seeking guidance on next steps to implement local remote learning in accordance with SB 15. The TAA referenced above and this FAQ document have been prepared to support LEAs in planning in alignment with SB 15.

Questions are organized into the following sections:

- [LEA Eligibility](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Attendance & Enrollment](#)
- [Student Eligibility](#)
- [Implementation Requirements & Considerations](#)
- [Options for Remote Learning \(SB 15 and beyond\)](#)

### LEA Eligibility

1. **How will SB 15 apply to LEAs that have not received a previous performance rating, for example, new schools?**

LEAs that do not have a prior performance rating, for example, LEAs established in school year 2019-20 or 2020-21, are eligible to launch local remote learning under SB 15. LEAs without prior performance ratings do not need to apply for a waiver to meet the performance rating requirement.

2. **If an LEA or single school within an LEA fully closes and discontinues on-campus learning due to COVID, can that closed school or LEA offer a local remote learning program for full funding under SB 15 while they are closed?**



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Thank you for joining us today!

Please submit all questions to our form using the QR code.



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