Division of Youth Services
School Attendance Expectations

In accordance with Arkansas state standards, DYS youth attend school five days a week for six hours per day for a total of 30 hours per week. At any such time that these minutes cannot or are not met, the educational time must be made up.

In the event circumstances require that a facility, class, pod/group, or an individual miss a day(s), of school, it is the responsibility of the district principal, building-level principal, or educational director of the facility to notify the DYS Superintendent of the dates and times missed and to also present a proposal for how and when the missed educational time will be made up.

ADE STANDARD REGARDING INSTRUCTIONAL MINUTES REQUIRED PER DAY

1-A.5.2 Except where otherwise allowed by law, each public school shall provide a planned instructional day that averages no less than six (6) hours per day or thirty (30) hours per week. Any day in which fewer than six (6) hours of instruction time is provided to students shall be counted as one-half (½) of a school day if at least three (3) hours of instructional time is provided to students. Any day in which fewer than three (3) hours of instructional time is provided to students shall not be counted as part of a school day.

COVID-19 has caused some facilities, groups/pods, individuals to have to be isolated or to quarantine for a specified time. DYS has established a protocol that allows for students to receive printed materials from Virtual Arkansas teachers that was prepared in advance. This allows students to keep up with their schoolwork (if they feel well enough to do so) preventing them from falling behind in their studies. If they are too ill to complete their work while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be provided extended time to make up their work. Teachers and classroom academic coaches will assist as needed to ensure students are able to master the skills that were taught while the students were out of the classroom setting.