



## **COVID-19 DISTANCE LEARNING**

The Torrington Board of Education recognizes the importance of technology in education and the growing popularity and use of online coursework. In that regard, and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a, the Board sanctions online learning to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

### **District-Provided Distance Learning**

The Board sanctions online learning to be used for all students K-12 and toward high school graduation requirements by participating successfully in distance learning offered by the Board during the COVID-19 health emergency. Determination of successful participation will be made by taking into account work performed by the student prior to the school closure.

### **Requirements for Online Coursework**

1. The content of the online course is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
2. The course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs;
3. The program of instruction for such online coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic;
4. The courses are:
  - a. taught by teachers who are certified in Connecticut and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or
  - b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited; and
5. The principal has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

Distance Learning provided to students by the District during the COVID-19 health emergency shall be provided at Board expense. Elective purchases related to the District provided distance learning coursework are non-reimbursable. Any expenses incurred by families for taking an online course not sanctioned by the District shall be the responsibility of the student/parent and shall not be the responsibility of the Board.

#### Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a.