

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



From: Auditor of State's Center for Audit Excellence
To: All IPA Firms
Subject: Blended v/s Remote Learning Plan Clarification - FY 2021
Date: March 28, 2022

Recently there have been some questions about blended v/s remote learning plans (RLP), as described in OCS 1-26. In most cases, the issue was confusion in the terminology. Some Districts filed a RLP, but then because they were in person part of the time, and remote part of the time, they 'say' they were 'blended' – when in fact they were operating under their remote learning plan.

In a nutshell:

- **If a District only filed a blended learning declaration with ODE, had a blended learning policy, and had some students learning remotely - then the blended declaration is what they operated under.**
- **If a District only adopted & filed a Remote Learning Plan with ODE, and had some students learning remotely - then the RLP is what they operated under.**

Keep in mind, Districts could have both blended & RLP, but in that case, review the following guidance from pg. 1 of 1-26: *Due to COVID, for Fy 2021, school districts could choose to operate in person as normal, **OR** under a remote learning plan (133rd GA, HB 164, Section 16(B)) **OR** under a blended learning model/declaration (Ohio Rev. Code § 3302.41). **This determination may be on a district wide, or per building basis; meaning one district may have some buildings on a blended declaration, other buildings on a remote learning plan, and other buildings operating in person as normal. There should be no overlap among the plans.***

Just a few reminders:

- ODE's 'Comparison Guide – Blended Learning Declaration vs. Remote Learning Plan' is linked to in the 1-26 controls box.
- If you are unable to determine whether a District submitted a RLP to ODE, you may reach out to the e-mail address below. ODE provided AOS a list of Fy 21 Remote Learning Plans submitted to them.

- The list of Fy 21 blended learning declarations filed with ODE is linked to in step #1 of OCS 1-26.

Questions can be directed to: KMBerger-Davis@ohioauditor.gov.