



Our **vision** is to provide high-quality educational opportunities that inspire a community of learners

WELLNESS • EQUITY • ENGAGEMENT

Our **mission** is to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships

DESE Update: New Structured Learning Time Regulations

**ABRSC School Committee Meeting
December 17, 2020**

Our Priorities *(Identified Spring 2020)*

- Safety and health are our top priorities.
- We will keep plans realistic for all stakeholders: students, families, staff and community.
- We will create warm and welcoming environments in our schools that prioritize connections with and among students and staff.
- We will support students' social-emotional well-being.
- Equity will remain at the core of our work as we plan for students.
- Our focus is on students as learners and individuals, not just about unfinished teaching and learning.
- Communication is critical to maintaining trust.

Background

March 2020	- Schools closed
July 2020	- DESE Draft Reopening Guidance Issued
August 2020	- DESE Final Reopening Guidance Issued - DRAFT ABRSD Plan aligned w/ DESE Guidance reviewed by DESE - FINAL ABRSD Plan Submitted and Approved by DESE
November 2020	- Superintendents complete learning time survey for DESE
December 2020	- DESE proposed new learning time regulations (12/9) - Board of Education adopts new regulations (12/15)
January 2021	- Expected Implementation of new regulations (1/19)

Important Terms

Synchronous Learning: learning that is directed by a teacher and that happens in real time with other students such as during live, whole-class instruction, and small group work.

Asynchronous Learning: learning that occurs on a student's individual time and at their own pace.

NEW - Live Instruction: the total of in-person instruction and remote synchronous instruction combined.

Structured Learning Time: The total of all learning time, including live instruction and asynchronous learning combined, whether students are working in person or remotely.

[DESE Student Learning Time Regulations - 603-CMR 27.00](#)

Important Terms *(as defined by DESE)*

Hybrid Model: A District is considered in a “Hybrid Model” if that is the predominant learning model used by students (even if some students opt for remote learning only)

Remote Model: A District is considered in a “Remote Model” if that is the predominant learning model used by students (even if some students are learning in person)

ABRSD:

- ABRSD is considered to be in a Hybrid Model and is subject to these requirements, unless we receive a waiver from DESE
- If our schools transition to remote learning for a period of time, ABRSD would then be subject to the requirements under a Remote Model

Impact of Changes to Regulations

For ABRSD (Hybrid Model):

- Required daily “live” check-in for all students
- 35 hours “live instruction” for all students

For Remote Models:

- Daily “synchronous” instruction required for all students
- 40 hours “synchronous” instruction for students over 10 day period



Categories of Time Reported to DESE

Reportable Time	Examples include	Counts for Structured Learning Time	Counts for Live Instruction
In-person instructional time	Literacy, Math, Music, Art, Morning Meetings, Advisory	☐	☐
In-person non-instructional time	Lunch, Recess, Hallway Passing Time	✗	✗
Remote synchronous instructional time	Working in “real time” with teachers and other students	☐	☐
Remote asynchronous instructional time	Time spent working on a students’ own time or own pace	☐	✗
Remote non-instructional time	Lunch, Recess, Breaks	✗	✗

Current Structured and Live Learning Time

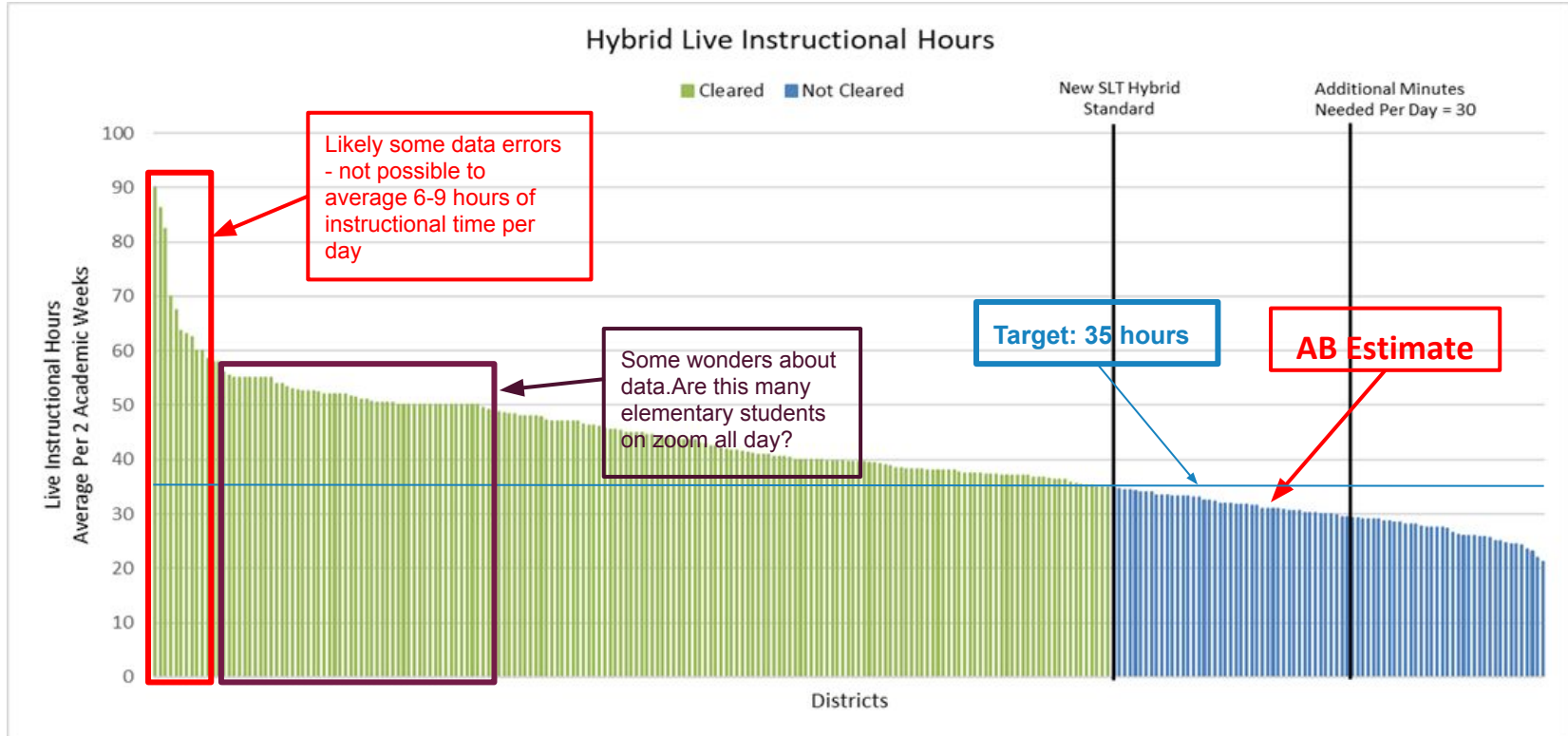
DISTRICT TOTALS	Current	<i>New Regs.</i>
Hybrid "Live" Hours (District Average)	30.5	35
Asynchronous Instructional Hours:	14	-
Daily structured learning time:	4.45	5

Current Structured and Live Learning Time

Grades 1 & 4	Dec. '20	New Regs.
Total "Live" Instructional Hours	32	35
Total Asynchronous Instructional Hours	12	-
Total Structured Learning Time (Daily Average)	4.4	5

Grade 7 & 10	Dec. '20	New Regs.
Total "Live" Instructional Hours	29	35
Total Asynchronous Instructional Hours	16	-
Total Structured Learning Time (Daily Average)	4.5	5

In Context State-wide



Potential Strategies to Increase “Live” Time

1-6 (need 3 hours over 10 days)

- Increase assistant time to “zoom” with students on remote days
- Students “Zoom” into some combination of morning meetings/read alouds/afternoon check-in

7-12 (need 6 hours over 10 days)

- Directed Studies (7-8) or Advisories (9-12) as possibilities for daily “live” check-in
- Students “Zoom” into some or all classes to increase live instructional time
- Lengthen school day/ reduce passing times

Notes:

Not a complete list of possibilities - *for illustrative purposes only*

All options will have benefits, drawbacks, challenges to implement mid-year - some may not be feasible

Next Steps, Possible Outcomes, Timeline

Next Steps:

- Survey Stakeholders (students, families, educators) about current experiences and preferences

Possible Outcomes/Changes to Hybrid Plan

- Addition of daily “live” check in for all students in grades 7-12 on remote days
- Addition of remote synchronous learning time K-12
- Application for DESE Waiver of Learning Time Requirements
- Some combination of these outcomes

Timeline

- 12/18 - Survey Released
- 12/22 - Survey Closes
- 1/5 - 1/7 - Response analysis
- 1/11 - Waiver Requests due to DESE (if that is determined)
- 1/19 - Deadline for implementation (unless waiver is granted)