

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. B. No. 229**

**Senator Blessing  
Cosponsor: Senator Brenner**



**A BILL**

Regarding the use of a blended learning model by 1  
public and chartered nonpublic schools during 2  
the 2021-2022 school year and to declare an 3  
emergency. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section: 5

(1) "Chartered nonpublic school" means a nonpublic school 6  
that holds a valid charter issued by the State Board of 7  
Education under section 3301.16 of the Revised Code and meets 8  
the standards established for such schools in rules adopted by 9  
the State Board. 10

(2) "Community school" means a community school 11  
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code that is not 12  
an internet- or computer-based community school, as defined in 13  
section 3314.02 of the Revised Code. 14

(3) "School district" means a city, local, exempted 15  
village, or joint vocational school district. 16

(4) "STEM school" means a STEM school established under 17

Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code.	18
(5) "Blended learning" has the same meaning as under section 3301.079 of the Revised Code.	19 20
(B) Notwithstanding any provision of the Revised Code to the contrary, a school district board of education, a community school governing authority with approval of the school's sponsor, a STEM school governing body, or a chartered nonpublic school governing authority may submit to the Department of Education, not later than April 30, 2022, a declaration to implement or discontinue use of a blended learning model during the 2021-2022 school year.	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
The decision to implement or rescind use of a blended learning model shall not be subject to approval by the Department.	29 30 31
(C) The Department shall post a list of districts, STEM, community, and chartered nonpublic schools operating under a blended learning model during the 2021-2022 school year on its web site.	32 33 34 35
(D) For the 2021-2022 school year, a school or district that implements a blended learning model for any portion of the 2021-2022 school year shall:	36 37 38
(1) Provide internet access and devices necessary to access online content to each student participating in blended learning;	39 40 41
(2) Monitor and assess student achievement and progress and provide additional services if necessary to improve student achievement;	42 43 44
(3) Periodically communicate with parents or guardians	45

regarding student progress;	46
(4) By March 15, 2022, report to the Department both of	47
the following:	48
(a) The total number of students engaged in blended	49
learning during the 2021-2022 school year by grade level;	50
(b) The total number of students with disabilities engaged	51
in blended learning during the 2021-2022 school year.	52
(E) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the	53
Revised Code, a community school that implements a blended	54
learning model during the 2021-2022 school year shall:	55
(1) Be considered as having met any requirements to	56
receive state funds prescribed under Chapter 3314. or 3317. of	57
the Revised Code;	58
(2) Not later than April 30, 2022, complete any revisions	59
or amendments due to the implementation or discontinuation of	60
blended learning to the school's contract with its sponsor	61
prescribed by section 3314.03 of the Revised Code;	62
(3) Not later than April 30, 2022, adopt or make any	63
necessary revisions to school policies.	64
(F) For the 2021-2022 school year, the chronic absenteeism	65
measure prescribed by section 3302.02 of the Revised Code shall	66
not be rated or used to calculate report card ratings under	67
section 3302.03 of the Revised Code for that school year.	68
(G) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the	69
Revised Code or administrative rule, between July 1, 2021, and	70
December 31, 2021, an individual who holds a valid license	71
issued by a licensing board may, upon request from the student's	72
parent or guardian, provide services within the scope of	73

practice authorized under the license by electronic delivery 74  
method or telehealth communication to any student participating 75  
in the Autism Scholarship Program established under section 76  
3310.41 of the Revised Code or the Jon Peterson Special Needs 77  
Scholarship Program established under section 3310.52 of the 78  
Revised Code, or to any student who was enrolled in a public or 79  
chartered nonpublic school and was receiving those services, 80  
regardless of the method of delivery, prior to the effective 81  
date of this section. 82

No licensing board to which this section applies shall 83  
take any disciplinary action against a license holder who 84  
provides services to a student in accordance with this section, 85  
including limiting, suspending, or revoking the person's license 86  
or refusing to issue a license to the person, solely because the 87  
license holder provided such services. 88

**Section 2.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 89  
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public 90  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 91  
ensure that flexible blended learning options may be offered by 92  
schools during the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. 93  
Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect. 94