In-Person Learning Policy

Purpose

To ensure that Renert School operates in conformity with Alberta's In-Person Learning Regulation 13/2025 (Alta. Reg. 13/2025) and related Education Act provisions. The policy reaffirms that in-person learning is the default mode for Grades 1–12, while also setting out lawful procedures under which at-home (remote) learning may be used temporarily in emergency or safety situations.

Guiding Principles

- In-person learning is the mandatory baseline for Grades 1–12; schools must always offer an in-person option.
- At-home learning (remote instruction) is permitted only under limited, exceptional circumstances.
- A student may not be denied access to in-person learning solely on the basis of refusing to wear a face covering.
- Any shift to at-home learning must be temporary, documented, and subject to review and oversight.
- The at-home learning option must allow the student to continue with the same courses and educational program as would have been offered in-person.

Roles & Administrative Responsibilities

Renert School's Board of Directors

- Authorize transitions to at-home learning or temporary class suspensions in emergencies.
- Ensure all actions comply with Regulation 13/2025 and associated statutory obligations.
- Notify Alberta's Minister of Education in the following cases:
    - Use of at-home learning *without an in-person option* for up to three consecutive school days.

    - Resumption of in-person learning following any at-home period.
    - If a ministerial exemption is needed to continue at-home learning beyond three consecutive days.

- Approve and coordinate use of alternate in-person sites if the main building is unsafe or unusable.

Principal

- Oversee implementation of this policy at the school level.
- Maintain accurate attendance and participation records (in-person and remote).
- Ensure continuity of instruction, access to resources, and equitable support across modalities.
- Liaise with the Board of Directors to plan alternative in-person learning sites as needed.
- Communicate with families and staff about transitions, expectations, and timelines.

Teachers & Staff

- Deliver instruction according to Alberta's Program of Studies in both in-person and remote settings.
- Ensure that curriculum outcomes, assessment, and instructional hours meet provincial requirements.
- Maintain daily or regular contact with students during at-home learning (synchronous or asynchronous), as reasonably practicable.
- Adapt instruction and delivery to support students with limited or no technology access (e.g. through printed materials, phone check-ins).
- Ensure that students requiring learning accommodations continue to receive these supports.

Conditions & Limitations for At-Home Learning

Authorized Circumstances

At-home learning without an in-person option may only be authorized when one or more of the following conditions apply (subject also to overriding requirements under Public Health or Emergency Management statutes):

- A public health emergency or state of emergency is declared (or reactivated).

- The school premises are deemed unsafe or unusable (e.g. structural damage, hazardous conditions).

- Severe weather or another emergency makes travel or class attendance unsafe.

Limitations & Requirements

- At-home learning without an available in-person alternative may last for up to three consecutive school days.

- If continuation beyond three consecutive days is necessary, the school will obtain a ministerial exemption.

- Where feasible and safe, alternate in-person locations (e.g. satellite sites, temporary leased space) will be explored and offered.

- Any at-home learning option will allow students to continue their same courses, programming, and access to support.

5. Instructional Requirements During At-Home Learning

- Instructional hours will satisfy Alberta's minimum instructional time requirements.

- Core subjects and required curricular outcomes will continue to be delivered.

- Students will have regular teacher contact (via virtual meetings, phone, email, etc.).

- For students without reliable access to technology or the internet, alternative delivery (e.g. printed work, mailed materials, phone support) will be provided.

- Provincial assessments will be accommodated where possible, consistent with Alberta Education expectations.

- The school will plan mechanisms to monitor progress, provide feedback, and intervene where students struggle in the remote setting.

6. Communication, Reporting & Notification

- The Board of Directors will notify the Minister whenever at-home learning without an in-person option is used (for up to three days) and when in-person learning resumes.

- Families and staff will be promptly informed whenever a shift to remote or back to in-person learning is made, including timelines, expectations, methods of delivery, technological requirements, fallback options, and support measures (e.g. loaner devices, printed packages).

- All decisions, notifications, and reviews related to transitions will be documented.

- At the end of each school year, the school will review and report on the use of at-home learning, including frequency, duration, challenges, and feedback from stakeholders.

7. Conflict, Compliance & Review

- In any case of conflict or inconsistency between this policy and a Ministerial Order, or applicable public health or emergency legislation (Public Health Act, Emergency Management Act), those statutes or orders prevail.

- This policy will be reviewed annually (or more frequently if regulations or guidance change) to ensure ongoing compliance with Regulation 13/2025 and related statutory requirements.

- Any updates or modifications will be communicated to the school community (staff, students, families) before implementation.