What is Synchronous Learning?

Synchronous learning is learning that happens in real time. Synchronous learning involves using text, video, or voice communication in a way that enables educators and other members of the school-or board-based team to instruct and connect with students in real time. Synchronous learning supports the well-being and academic achievement of all students, including students with special education needs, by providing educators and students with an interactive and engaging way to learn. It helps teachers provide immediate feedback to students and enables students to interact with one another.

Asynchronous learning is learning that is not delivered in real time. Asynchronous learning may involve students watching pre-recorded video lessons, completing assigned tasks, or contributing to online discussion boards.

For Secondary students in Grades 9 -12 the daily minimum synchronous learning time requirement will be 225 minutes for a 300-minute instructional day. The synchronous learning will be provided for large and small groups of students each day, in a manner similar to in-person classroom teaching. Synchronous learning time may include students working independently and in small groups while engaged in a virtual classroom with the teacher overseeing their learning and available for questions.

Synchronous learning parallels the face to face classroom experience. It includes direct instruction on the part of the teacher and promotes the best learning experience for a student. However, for some students, synchronous learning may not be possible due to internet bandwidth issues. Therefore, students may be exempted from the minimum requirements for synchronous learning, on an individual basis. Requests for an exemption must be made by contacting the school administration. To support meaningful access to education, alternative learning approaches will be put in place for all exempted students. Exempted students will be provided with a daily schedule or timetable per course.