



FAQs

1. Will the robot be a distraction?

For the first day or two, it will be. Everyone is excited about something new in school. However, after a few days, the robot becomes just another student in the class.

2. Is there a cost for using the robot?

Yes. ESC Region 11 does charge a rental fee. Your district will need to agree to pay \$150.00 rental fee per 30 days.

3. Will the student be able to record teaching practices?

The VGo can't record video without custom modifications. The student can take snapshots of the board and another teaching devices for notes just like other students who have cell phones in their pockets, but they cannot record video.

5. Will the "Robot Kid" be a target for bullying?

Although it is bound to eventually happen, the VGo manufacturers and other VGo sponsors have never heard of a single instance of this happening.

6. Can the student drive the robot around at night which could set off alarms?

No. The VGo has settings that allow for connections only during certain times of the day. The VGo will be docked and recharging at night.

7. Can we receive ADA for a student receiving instruction using a robot?

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the district to verify the qualifications for receiving ADA. ESC Region 11 takes no responsibility for errors in coding in PEIMS for these students.

Per the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#), Section 12.3:

12.3 Remote Instruction That Is Not Delivered Through the TxVSN

This subsection (12.3) addresses remote instruction other than virtual instruction provided through the TxVSN. For requirements related to the TxVSN, see [12.2 Texas Virtual School Network \(TxVSN\)](#).

Under current agency rules and policies, remote instruction that is not delivered through the TxVSN is **not** eligible for state funding and generation of ADA, except for classes taken through distance learning while a student is in attendance at a regular school campus. **However, this subsection describes procedures for submitting requests for waivers of those rules and policies and information on how the agency will evaluate those requests. Please be advised that in addition to submitting a waiver request, any charter school wishing to provide remote instruction for students (other than distance learning while a student is in attendance at a regular school campus) must submit a non-expansion amendment request to the commissioner of education and receive commissioner approval before submitting the waiver request for possible implementation of remote instruction. Changing the instructional program would be a substantive amendment request in accordance with 19 TAC §100.1033(c).**

For the purposes of this subsection (12.3), "remote instruction" means instruction provided through a technology that allows for real-time, two-way interaction between a student and teacher who are in different physical locations. **Examples of such technology might be interactive video conferencing or a robot that allows for virtual interaction between student and teacher. The technology must allow for both two-way audio and two-way video interaction.**

12.3.1 Remote Conferencing—Regular Education Students

In Subsection 12.3.1, "remote conferencing" means remote instruction in which a student at an off-campus location is able to virtually participate in classes provided on the student's campus.

If your school district provides instruction through remote conferencing to a regular education student, your district may, **with the approval of a waiver request**, count that instruction as instructional time for FSP funding purposes and count the student in attendance for FSP funding purposes, provided the following requirements are met:

- **The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition[1].**
- **The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States.**

The waiver request must include an explanation of the circumstances. Waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis. A waiver will not be granted if the student is unable to attend school for a reason other than a medical condition (such as confinement at home for disciplinary reasons).

If a waiver is granted, the affected student will generate attendance according to the 2-through-4-hour rule and based on whether the student is virtually "present" at the official attendance-taking time. The student will not be considered to be receiving homebound program instruction and will not be eligible to generate eligible days present through the General Education Homebound (GEH) program. If the student is eligible to be served through the GEH program, your district should evaluate whether it is more appropriate to serve the student through that program or through remote conferencing. If your district opts to serve the student through the GEH program, then the student would generate attendance/eligible days present according to the GEH funding method. A student may not generate attendance through both remote conferencing and the GEH program simultaneously. See [3.7 General Education Homebound \(GEH\)](#) for GEH requirements. See [12.3.3 Remote Homebound Instruction—Regular Education Students](#) for requirements specific to remote GEH instruction.

Your district can submit a request for a general waiver using the TEA's automated waiver application system, which is available in the online TEA Login (TEAL) secure environment. When submitting a waiver request, cite the following requirements in item 3 of the "General Waivers" section: 1) the requirement that a student be on campus at the official attendance-taking time in order to be considered present for FSP funding purposes, as required by 19 TAC §129.21 and the *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*, which is adopted annually through 19 TAC §129.1025, and 2) the agency's policy of considering only face-to-face instruction as instructional time for purposes of FSP funding.

A student served through remote conferencing may be eligible to generate weighted funding for programs such as CTE or bilingual/ESL education, provided requirements for the applicable program(s) are met. See the applicable sections of this handbook for specific program requirements. In submitting a waiver request, explain how any applicable program requirements will be satisfied if your district intends to claim weighted funding.

[1] Pregnancy, in and of itself, is not considered a medical condition. See [12.3.3 Remote Homebound Instruction—Regular Education Students](#) for information on remote Pregnancy Related Services Compensatory Education Home Instruction.