

Franklin County Schools Virtual Education Option Policy

Scope and Delivery of Services

The Franklin County Board of Education provides a virtual school option for grades 9-12 that includes, but is not limited to, all courses that are needed to obtain a high school diploma.

Such courses will be delivered through the Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS Virtual Learning program and/or a district approved online instructional program.

Minimum Eligibility Requirements

- Student must be enrolled in the Franklin County School District.
- Have consistent, daily access to the Internet and a computer.
- Have and maintain a minimum overall "B" average on core classes or met/exceeded a level of readiness proficiency on previous year state approved assessments.
- Demonstrate a proficiency in computer navigation skills.
- Demonstrate a proficiency in reading/comprehension as deemed appropriate by the principal.
- Have no more than three (3) unexcused, full-day absences during the previous academic year. Individual waivers may be granted based on circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal.
- Disciplinary record must contain no Class II or III violations. Individual waivers may be granted based on circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal.
- Be on track for graduation having earned necessary credit in each core area of study—English, Math, Science and Social Science- and other requisite courses needed for a diploma.
- If applicable, students must meet the eligibility requirements of the ACCESS Virtual Learning program developed by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Monitoring Performance and Testing Requirements

Individual student performance will be monitored pursuant to the school system's traditional academic credit requirements and grade scale. Students utilizing the virtual school option will be subject to all state testing and accountability requirements and will be subject to the same rules and regulations regarding the administration of such tests applicable to traditional public school students enrolled in the traditional public school.

The Superintendent is hereby authorized to take whatever action may be necessary to facilitate the state testing and accountability requirements applicable to virtual education students. The school system reserves the right to require students utilizing the virtual education option to participate in state testing and accountability requirements on campus at a date and time selected by the school system.

The Superintendent is also authorized to take whatever action may be necessary to facilitate the integrity of classroom assessments. The school system reserves the right to require students utilizing the virtual education option to complete specified assessment activities on campus at a date and time selected by the school system.

Attendance

Students participating in the virtual education option will be considered as being in attendance if the students are successfully progressing in the virtual education coursework at a rate comparable to the progression of a traditional class.

The school system reserves the right to set specific attendance requirements for each virtual course. The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to develop alternate attendance policies for virtual courses, provided that students in such programs are given notice of the attendance requirements. A student's failure to comply with such requirements may result in administrative action including, but not limited to, probation or removal from the class or a charge of truancy, if appropriate.

All full-time students enrolled in a virtual program will be counted in the average daily membership of their school.

Removal

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional day program if:

- The student's participation in the virtual program is impeding the student's academic progress.
- The student fails to meet virtual course attendance requirements
- Or the student repeatedly violates school system policies, procedures, rules or regulations, including, but not limited to, the school system's rules governing the use of its technology resources.

Extracurricular Activities

Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program, including, but not limited to, any applicable Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) requirements.

NCAA athletic requirements may be different than AHSAA. The school system is not responsible for courses taken via virtual education option that are not accepted by NCAA for collegiate athletic eligibility.

Additional Procedures Authorized

The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to develop such procedures as he or she deems necessary to implement this policy including, but not limited to, eligibility criteria for courses, methods for informing students and parents of the virtual program's requirements and rules, and a process for making determinations regarding a student's continued eligibility.