

Greyhound Bridge Academy

Handbook



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Paris Board of Education
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Letter from the Superintendent

Paris City Schools Greyhound Bridge Academy

Dear Students and Families,

We're so excited to welcome you to **Greyhound Bridge Academy**, a brand-new way to learn and grow within Paris City Schools! This K–12 program is designed with you in mind, offering a flexible, personalized learning experience while keeping you connected to everything you love about being a Greyhound.

Greyhound Bridge Academy brings together the freedom of off-campus learning with the support of our amazing teachers, school resources, clubs, and even athletics. Whether your child learns best at home, on the go, or a mix of both, this program offers the tools and guidance to help them succeed in a way that works for *them*.

At Paris City Schools, we believe learning should fit the learner, and Greyhound Bridge Academy is here to do just that. We can't wait to see the great things your student will accomplish in this exciting new journey!

Let's make it a fantastic year — together!

With Greyhound Pride,

Stephen McCauley

Superintendent

Paris City Schools

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Section 1: Introduction & Overview

Mission Statement

Our mission is to empower families with educational choices by providing access to certified teachers, enriching extracurricular activities, and flexible, innovative learning pathways. We are committed to blending the strengths of traditional education with forward-thinking practices to inspire lifelong learning and student success.

Program Overview

We believe that every family deserves access to a high-quality, flexible education that meets their unique needs. Greyhound Bridge Academy offers a dynamic, flexible learning model that bridges the gap between public schooling, virtual learning, and off-campus education. Our goal is to provide students with the best of both worlds — a structured, supportive academic environment combined with the freedom & flexibility of home-based learning.

At the core of our philosophy is the belief that learning should be personalized, adaptable, and inclusive. Our model allows families to tailor educational experiences to their child's strengths, pace, and interests, while still benefiting from the resources, teachers, and community support offered through Paris City Schools.

This approach nurtures independent thinking, self-motivation, and academic excellence while preserving strong connections between families, educators, and peers. By blending tradition with innovation, Greyhound Bridge Academy prepares students to succeed in an ever-evolving world.

Purpose of This Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a comprehensive guide for families participating in Greyhound Bridge Academy. It outlines the program's structure, policies, expectations, and available resources. This handbook is designed to help you navigate your experience with clarity and confidence. Our goal is to ensure that every student and family feels informed, supported, and connected throughout the school year.

Section 2: Enrollment and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment is open to students in grades K–12. Student admission to the program is determined through a careful review process conducted by the admissions committee. This committee evaluates each applicant based on academic history, learning needs, family commitment to the program, and readiness for independent or supported off-campus learning. Members of the committee include the District Director of the Greyhound Bridge Academy, the school-level coordinator, the building principal or designee, school counselors, the District Greyhound Bridge Academy Family Liaisons, and FRYSC Directors.

Parents/guardians are expected to play an active role in the program. As part of the enrollment process, families will be asked to participate in an orientation session and complete required documentation confirming their understanding of program expectations.

Admission is contingent upon space availability and approval of the admissions committee.

General Requirements for All Students:

- Must apply during the open enrollment period.
- Must complete the application and interview process.
- Must not have a history of chronic truancy, grade retention, or significant behavior issues.
 - The Academy is NOT designed to be a form of disciplinary action for students with previous or current disciplinary issues.
- Students with IEPs must be reviewed by the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC); the committee must determine that this program is an appropriate fit to support the student's learning plan.

Requirements for Students Currently Enrolled in Paris City Schools:

- Must submit a recommendation from a school administrator or current/former teacher.
- Academic and behavioral records will be reviewed as part of the admissions process.

Requirements for Students Not Previously Enrolled in Paris City Schools:

- You may be asked to complete diagnostic and placement testing to determine appropriate academic placement and support services.
- Must submit prior academic records.

Additional Program-Specific Requirements:

Some specialized programs offered through Paris City Schools may require on-campus participation beyond the standard requirements of Greyhound Bridge Academy. These include, but are not limited to, Technical school programs, Dual credit courses, and Career pathway classes.

Families should review the specific expectations for these programs, as additional time on campus, transportation coordination, or scheduling may be necessary.

Section 3: Program Structure

What does it mean to go to school online? Like all schools, the Greyhound Bridge Academy is made up of many parts, most of them accessible through the internet. The Greyhound Bridge Academy students will primarily use an online program to participate in class courses. Students will also be required to use their assigned school email to communicate with their assigned mentor teacher and the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff. If required, some students may use Google Meet to meet with their mentor teacher or other Greyhound Bridge Academy staff.

Curriculum: Schools PLP

All instruction and coursework within Greyhound Bridge Academy aligns with the Kentucky Academic Standards for each grade level to ensure consistency, rigor, and statewide expectations for learning.

Greyhound Bridge Academy utilizes the Schools PLP (Personalized Learning Platform) curriculum, a comprehensive online program designed to meet the diverse learning needs of students in a flexible and engaging format. Schools PLP offers standards-aligned content across core subjects and electives, allowing students to learn at their own pace while receiving support from certified teachers.

The platform incorporates interactive lessons, assessments, and built-in tools that track student progress and support individualized learning paths. Schools PLP is used to deliver high-quality instruction that is accessible both on and off campus, ensuring continuity and accountability throughout each student's academic experience.

It's important to note that while asynchronous online learning offers numerous benefits, it may not be suitable for all students or learning scenarios. Some students thrive in traditional classroom environments or require more direct interaction and guidance from in-person teachers. Therefore, it's essential to consider individual learning needs and preferences when choosing an educational approach.

Instructional Support Services

- Regular contact with the Bridge Academy Liaison or teacher
 - 1 x per week for Middle/High School, 2 x per day for Elementary School
 - Students/Families should respond to the school/district within 48 hours, or the student may be required to return to in-person learning.
- An assigned Paris City Schools teacher for academic guidance and support
- Access to special education services and other school-provided support, as applicable
- Tutoring services may be available upon request

Section 4: Attendance, Assessment, & Grading

Attendance Policy:

- Students in grades K–5 are required to log in daily and engage with assigned coursework each school day to be counted present.
- Middle and high school students are evaluated based on performance mastery rather than daily attendance hours.
- Middle and high school students are required to participate in weekly check-ins with their teacher or liaison.
- All students must complete the required assessments, some of which may be administered in person at their designated school site.

Assessment and Grading Policies

Our virtual learning platform utilizes the following to assess students and measure performance: Quizzes, assignments, practice tests, & mid-term and final exams.

State/District Testing:

Students are expected to complete all required state and district assessments in person at their designated school.

Grading Scale:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	Below 60%

Probation & Dismissal Policy:

Students who do not log in regularly, fail to maintain communication with staff, or whose grades fall below the minimum standard of 65% will be required to meet with their teacher and will be placed on a two-week academic probation. During this time, students are expected to complete any missing work and improve their academic performance. If these expectations are not met by the end of the probation period, the student will be withdrawn from the program and must return to in-person learning. Students placed on academic probation multiple times during the year may be required to return to in-person learning and may be denied enrollment in the virtual learning program in the following years.

Section 5: Roles and Expectations

Greyhound Bridge Academy is a collaborative learning environment that relies on shared responsibility among the Bridge Academy liaison, teachers, parents/caregivers, and students. Each role is essential in supporting student success and ensuring the program operates effectively.

Bridge Academy Liaison Responsibilities:

- Serve as the primary point of contact for Bridge Academy families
- Facilitate ongoing communication between families and Paris City Schools
- Provide support throughout the application, enrollment, and orientation process
- Act as an advocate for Bridge Academy students and families to ensure their needs are addressed

Bridge Academy Teacher Responsibilities:

- Be available during planning periods for scheduled meetings with students, families, and/or the liaison
- Monitor the progress and academic performance of each student. Students may be required to participate in intervention sessions when their academic performance is poor.
- Ensure that students with an active 504 Plan or IEP are receiving accommodations, instruction, and support. This can be delivered virtually or in person at a regularly scheduled time.
- Keep a log of all interactions with families for documentation purposes.
- Offer or facilitate tutoring support as needed
- Communicate student progress and grades in a timely and transparent manner
- Submit a progress report to the Bridge Academy Liaison, as well as school and district administrators, every two weeks
- Engage in weekly check-ins with Bridge Academy students & families

Student Responsibilities:

- Complete and submit assignments on time
 - Students must remain **"On Pace"** and passing **ALL** courses with a **minimum grade of 65%**. Student progress checks will take place every week. Any student who is **"Far Behind"** or has a grade less than **65%** in any class will be placed on academic probation.
 - Students on academic probation who do not improve to **"On Pace"** and passing **ALL** courses with a **minimum grade of 65%** or better within 2 weeks will be required to return to In-Person learning at their district school on the following school day.
- Communicate with teacher: Weekly at Middle and High School, Daily at Elementary School
- Adhere to the Paris City Schools Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use Policy
- Self-advocate and seek help from your assigned mentor teacher, as needed.
- Complete all required state/district-mandated assessments in person at your designated school

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

Parents/Guardians are considered the student's primary learning coach in the Academy. A student's success in the Virtual Greyhound Academy is dependent on both the student's and the parent's investment in the program. The parents' responsibilities include:

- Providing support and supervision to ensure students meet the academic and behavioral expectations of the district
- Participating in virtual meetings with teachers and students
- Ensuring the student adheres to all program expectations and deadlines, including reporting absences, completing coursework on time, maintaining a grade of 65% or higher, and communicating with their teacher(s) through Google Meet or email
- Providing transportation to and from school when required
- Ensure the student participates in state/district-mandated assessments at their school or designated area.
- Inquire about extracurricular opportunities
- Ensure the student participates in any required tutoring or intervention sessions

Contracts

- [Parent Contract](#)
- [Student Contract](#)

Paris City Schools Student Handbook & Code of Conduct:

All Students are expected to adhere to the policies outlined in the Paris City Schools Student Handbook & Code of Conduct

- <https://www.paris.kyschools.us/ForStudents.aspx>

Section 6: Additional Program Benefits

Greyhound Bridge Academy students are encouraged to take full advantage of the many opportunities available through Paris City Schools. Bridge Academy students who are in good standing with the program are eligible to:

- Participate in school-wide events including school-sponsored events, dances, pep rallies, field trips, & more.
- Participate in extracurricular activities including clubs, band, academic teams, & athletics.
- Apply for grants and scholarships for postsecondary education & qualify for Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) funds
- Enroll in dual credit courses during high school

Section 7: Technology Policies & Requirements

To be successful in the Greyhound Bridge Academy, students must have regular access to a reliable internet connection and a device capable of accessing the Schools PLP learning platform. Paris City Schools may provide devices to students as needed. Specific technology requirements include:

- Reliable internet access for login and assignment submission
- A computer or Chromebook with an up-to-date browser and webcam capability
- Headphones or speakers for audio-based instruction
- Access to a printer and scanner or a mobile scanning app may be helpful, but is not required

Technical support is available through Paris City Schools for troubleshooting device or platform access issues.

All students are expected to adhere to the Paris Independent School District: Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

- <https://www.paris.kyschools.us/ForStudents.aspx>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do we apply for the Greyhound Bridge Academy?

- You can find the Greyhound Bridge Academy application on our [home page](#).

2. Once I choose the Greyhound Bridge Academy, can I change my mind later?

- A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so when available. For the sake of continuity, once an option has started, transfers from one learning option to another would be best after the completion of a 9-week grading term or semester. Unique circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis in partnership with the assigned school.

3. What about Special Population Services?

- Students who have an IEP will require an ARC meeting before being accepted into the Greyhound Bridge Academy to ensure the student's needs can be met.
- Section 504 accommodation plans will remain in place with the Greyhound Bridge Academy.

4. Can my Greyhound Bridge Academy student participate in school sports/athletics?

- With good academic standing, the Greyhound Bridge Academy students will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities offered at their home school. Some exceptions may apply.
- For high school students enrolled in the Greyhound Bridge Academy:
 - Athletic eligibility will be determined based on the KHSAA eligibility guidelines.

5. Will I have the same classes as I would in the traditional model?

- Learning will occur through the learning management system with support from mentor teachers. The Greyhound Bridge Academy staff can easily monitor student progress and performance with usage statistics, grading and feedback tools, curriculum maps, and communication tools.

6. If I choose the Greyhound Bridge Academy, will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

- Yes, a desktop, laptop, or Chromebook will be required. A stable internet connection will also be necessary at home. If you are unable to provide your own device, please notify the Greyhound Bridge Academy, and one may be provided for you.

7. Are learning "times" for the Greyhound Bridge Academy students flexible?

- Yes. A large portion of learning will be personalized, targeted learning objectives to improve student outcomes that can be completed outside the "normal" school day. This learning model provides families the flexibility to choose an instructional model to meet their needs while reflecting Paris City Schools' commitment to providing a high-quality instructional experience, no matter what the setting. Attendance will be monitored daily. Students who fail to complete activities/assignments on a scheduled school day will be considered absent. Paris City Schools' attendance policy is the same for the Greyhound Bridge Academy as a traditional in-person student.

8. Do I still have to take state assessments as a Greyhound Bridge Academy student?

- Yes, the Greyhound Bridge Academy is a public school choice, and students must participate in all required state assessments. Students will be required to report to a school campus for state assessments.

9. Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations in the Greyhound Bridge Academy?

- All students attending the Greyhound Bridge Academy will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the virtual setting. In addition, the Greyhound Bridge Academy may be able to provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the online educational environment. Please note that some accommodations may not be possible to implement in the online educational setting. Students who have an IEP will require an ARC meeting with the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff to ensure the student's needs can be met through the Greyhound Bridge Academy. Students who have a 504 Plan will require a meeting with the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff to ensure the student's accommodations can be adequately met.

10. Do I need to submit an excuse note if I have an appointment or miss a day?

- Yes. Students will have flexibility and can "catch up" on their coursework, but should still submit an excuse note from a parent or medical provider for any date they will not complete schoolwork. If the student will have an extended absence, the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff should be notified in advance. Attendance will be monitored by the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff twice per day for students in grades K-5.

11. Can I be involuntarily removed from the Greyhound Bridge Academy?

- Yes. Students who are residents of Paris and are districted to Paris City Schools and who do not maintain academic success, despite layers of intervention, may be required to return to in-person learning at their assigned home base school. Students not residing in the Paris City Schools school district who do not maintain academic success will be required to return to in-person learning and may be denied re-enrollment the following school year.

12. How do I schedule a time to connect with my mentor teacher?

- You will need to email your mentor teacher or the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff to set up tutoring sessions.

13. Can the Greyhound Bridge Academy students receive KEES money for college?

- Yes, the Greyhound Bridge Academy students are eligible to earn KEES money. Learn more about KEES here: https://www.kheaa.com/pdf/pubs/KEES_Brochure.pdf

14. Can the Greyhound Bridge Academy students take the free ACT in the 11th grade?

- Yes! Like all juniors, the Greyhound Bridge Academy students will be eligible to take the ACT for free in their 11th-grade year.

15. Can the Greyhound Bridge Academy students participate in PROM?

- Yes! The Greyhound Bridge Academy students can participate in dances/Prom at their home school.

16. Is the program flexible on attendance?

- The Greyhound Bridge Academy maintains a flexible schedule for students. However, students must demonstrate attendance by completing coursework daily. The Greyhound Bridge Academy staff will clarify attendance by checking platform engagement. Attendance requirements will be the same as any other Paris City Schools student. Parents may write up to 5 notes to excuse an absence. Doctor's notes should be turned in within 3 school days of the absence. When in-person students are out of school, the Greyhound Bridge Academy students are not required to log in.

17. Are there choices for classes? Or, are students just assigned a class based on what their peers are taking in person?

- Families will work with the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff and the school counselor to determine the appropriate courses for their schedule. This will be personalized based on your child's needs. Students will be allowed to work ahead on assignments/modules.

18. What are the student behavior expectations?

- Student discipline code of acceptable behavior and discipline can be found [here](#).

19. Can nonresidents of Paris City Schools apply for the Greyhound Bridge Academy?

- Yes, any Kentucky student can apply to the Greyhound Bridge Academy.

20. What is the Greyhound Bridge Academy's progress report schedule?

- The Greyhound Bridge Academy will follow the district-determined midterm and semester report dates as noted in Infinite Campus. Final course grades will be posted to Infinite Campus at the end of the year or when the student is no longer enrolled with the Greyhound Bridge Academy. The Greyhound Bridge Academy highly recommends that parents/learning coaches routinely monitor student progress. This will allow you to provide the appropriate support/resources for your child to demonstrate success in online learning.

21. What happens if the student is unsuccessful with online learning?

- Students who are residents and districted to Paris City Schools who do not maintain academic success, despite layers of intervention, may be required to return to in-person learning at their assigned home base school. Students not residing in the Paris City Schools district who do not maintain academic success will be required to return to in-person learning and may be denied re-enrollment the following school year.

22. Can students re-enroll in the Greyhound Bridge Academy once they voluntarily/involuntarily leave?

- Once a student is unenrolled from the Greyhound Bridge Academy, they are ineligible to return during that school year. Students may reapply to the Greyhound Bridge Academy the following school year.

23. What process will the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff use to communicate extracurricular activities at the student's home school with Virtual Greyhound Academy families?

- Each school communicates extracurricular activities differently. The Greyhound Bridge Academy highly recommends that you contact your district school for specific information about activities of interest.
- It can also be beneficial to follow both the Greyhound Bridge Academy and your home school on Facebook.
- The Greyhound Bridge Academy students stay connected to their home school in IC. So, you will receive any information that your home school sends out through IC Messenger.
- If you are having difficulty gaining information from your home school, please reach out to missy.faw@paris.kyschools.us or kathy.tobin@paris.kyschools.us or stephanie.harmon@paris.kyschools.us

24. How much work is done at their own pace/timing, and how much is done at set times?

- Students should focus on both passing coursework with a 65% or better while staying "On Pace" in each course. Students who are flagged "Far Behind" or who have a grade less than 65% will be placed on academic probation. A student who is unable to get back "on track" or pass within the probation timelines will be required to return to in-person learning for more academic support.

25. What happens on NTI days?

- The Greyhound Bridge Academy students will not be required to complete additional NTI work outlined by their home school. The Greyhound Bridge Academy students will simply continue with their online program. Daily work engagement will continue to be monitored for attendance purposes.

26. What if my kid completes all core classes before the calendar school year ends?

- The Greyhound Bridge Academy students will continue with the curriculum until the end of the year. Additional lessons and extension activities can be added to meet the student's individual needs.

27. What is the plan if our Internet goes out and we have no way to log in?

- If your internet goes out and you cannot log in, you must immediately contact your teacher or school administration to notify them and establish an alternative plan for your schoolwork. Individual outages and technical difficulties can be accounted for if a parent or guardian sends an excuse note via email as soon as the connection is restored. Please note that if Paris City Schools is officially closed, the Greyhound Bridge Academy is also closed. In the event of a full district closure, students in the Greyhound Bridge Academy are not required to log in for attendance.

28. Is there an exception for attendance if we go out of town and it is an educational experience (Washington DC, wildlife preserve, Pearl Harbor, etc.)?

- Families can submit an Educational Enhancement Opportunity (EHO) form to the Greyhound Bridge Academy staff at least 5 days before the absence. Upon approval, students would be excused from their absence. The link can be found on the district webpage here: [Educational Field Trip/Educational Enhancement Opportunity Form](#)