

Pike County Schools
Virtual/Home School Consortium
Student Handbook



2021-22 School Year
Superintendent – Dr. Mark Bazzell

Purpose

There is a growing need to provide educational services to students enrolled in homeschool cooperatives, private education agencies, and families who prefer a virtual instructional option. Instructional services include 1) opportunities for students to receive instruction in a virtual/online instructional setting and 2) opportunities for students not enrolled in Pike County School System to take advantage of the exceptional programs offered by the Pike County School System.

Initial Vision

This need necessitates that the Pike County School System expand the current offerings as a proactive solution for students in grades K – 12. This option is designed for the student who:

- Prefer an online learning environment in which students may accelerate their academic program.
- Wish to be eligible for participation in one of our dual enrollment programs.
- Have specific social or educational needs that are barriers to them earning an Alabama High School Diploma traditionally.

Who

- Students meeting the following conditions living:
 1. Within the Pike County School zone.
 2. Within Pike County, but out-of-zone.
 3. Outside of Pike County, but nearby (neighboring county); within driving distance of the Virtual High School (for testing purposes) – within a 60 mile driving radius.
- Except for Home Schooled students (must be homeschooled for one year immediately before admission), students not zoned for a Pike County school must be approved as non-residency transfers.
- Students must have access to reliable technology (computer, internet, etc.) to complete online instruction.
- Students not currently enrolled in the Pike County School System would need to provide documentation of a 2.5 (80% = B) grade-point average to demonstrate the ability to perform at or near grade level.
- If transferring from a private or neighboring public school, the student would need to provide documentation of satisfactory attendance or documentation outlining a condition that prevented attendance.
- Students will be enrolled in one of the five existing Pike County schools and must participate in the state assessment program. These assessments are generally conducted on campus in a face-to-face environment. Students who do not participate in these required assessment events will be dismissed from the program.
- Students in grades K-12 will be eligible for participation in school activities, including AHSAA activities, if eligibility criteria are met.

Enrollment

Students must provide proper documentation for enrollment in an Alabama public school.

The Pike County Schools – Homeschool Consortium will be maintained from the CA3L building. Students enrolled for the Homeschool Consortium would be assigned to schools via the following protocol:

- If within the Pike County School zone, the student would officially be enrolled in their appropriately zoned school,
- If outside the Pike County School zone, the student would be assigned to the appropriate school based on the number of virtual students currently enrolled at the respective school. If the numbers are comparable, students would be assigned alternately between the respective schools.

Curriculum/Testing

- The curriculum will be delivered via direct online instruction, Schools PLP, or ACCESS – ALSDE managed.
 - K - 2nd – Dedicated online teacher for synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
 - 3rd – 5th – Schools PLP, _____ – Facilitator
 - 6th – 8th – Schools PLP, _____ – Facilitator
 - 9th – 12th - ACCESS, _____ - Facilitator
- Testing
 - For proctored exams/tests via ACCESS, students would be required to report (physically) to CA3L on a designated, predetermined day (unless otherwise specified). The Pike County Schools would provide a proctored environment for these students to complete exams/tests as needed.
 - The Pike County Schools would maintain a sign-in sheet to document participation in proctoring, tutoring, or other face-to-face activities.
- State Testing/Accountability
 - Students' accountability information would be calculated with the school in which they are enrolled. We recognize that this comes with certain accountability risks to the Pike County School System. However, we hope that the screening process, along with the periodic, face-to-face check-ups, will increase the likelihood of success.
 - Participation in state testing is required. Students who do not participate are subject to dismissal from the program.

Other Considerations

- Students participating in the Pike County Schools – Homeschool Consortium would retain the rights and privileges of students attending face-to-face classes, including:

- Participation in athletic and extracurricular activities, as allowed by the appropriate governing body and local, state, and federal law.
- Eligible for application to various dual enrollment programs available within the Pike County School System.
 - An administrative recommendation should be gathered from a community leader (i.e., mayor, judge, clergy, etc.).
 - Teacher recommendations should be secured from ACCESS teachers or previous teachers (1-2 years prior).
- **All students are subject to the full provisions of the Student Code of Conduct.**

For High School Students ONLY

- Diploma Options*
 - Advanced Diploma (30 credit)
 - Academic Core (16 credits)
 - English/Language: English 9, 10, 11, 12
 - History: World History, US History I, US History II, Gov/Econ
 - Science: Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology or Physics
 - Math: Geometry w/Data Analysis, Algebra I w/Probability, Algebra II w/Statistics, Precalculus, Mathematical Modeling
 - Required Electives (6 credits)
 - Career Preparation
 - Beginning Kinesiology/Physical Education
 - Health
 - Foreign Language I and II
 - Art (Theatre I)
 - Additional Electives (Choice of electives that total 8 – 10 credits)
 - Regular (30 credit)
 - Academic Core (16 credits)
 - English/Language: English 9, 10, 11, 12
 - History: World History, US History I, US History II, Gov/Econ
 - Science: Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Environmental Science
 - Math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebraic Connections, Algebra w/Finance
 - For students who took Algebra I as 8th graders and did not receive high school credit, Geometry could be split into Geometry A and B and receive a math credit for both portions.
 - Required Electives
 - Career Preparation
 - Beginning Kinesiology/Physical Education
 - Health
 - Career and Technical offerings
 - Other Approved Elective(s) – as needed and determined by the school-based team (Virtual/Home School Committee – VHS-C).
- Reduced Credit Option – available on an individual basis; typically reserved for upper-class transfer students; not be less than 24 total credits.

- Courses completed via ACCESS will be considered “honors” for Advanced Diploma and dual enrollment eligibility.
- Students and parents are responsible for notifying the Pike County Schools of their needs for coursework that meets NCAA eligibility guidelines.

Method

Students participating in the Pike County Schools – Virtual/Home School Consortium will be required to have daily access to the internet and reliable technology – all instruction will be delivered virtually. Students and parents must sign the Acceptable Use Internet Use Agreement before participating in the program. Lack of internet and reliable technology is NOT a valid excuse for students not maintaining adequate progress.

Students are encouraged to 1) remain on-pace demonstrating adequate progress towards course completion; 2) work in all classes each day; and 3) complete assignments with a minimum passing score. To be considered "present," students must log in and complete lessons each daily. Students will be given a full course load each term unless otherwise specified by the VHS-C.

Students who are more than 20% behind in coursework will be subject to a parent conference with their VHS-C to discuss concerns and consider possible corrective actions, interventions, or other appropriate supports. If the student and parent fail to attend the meeting, the student may be returned to the traditional classroom setting.

- Each student’s VHS-C will meet to determine an appropriate program of study and/or Personal Learning Plan (PLP).
- Students and parents must attend a mandatory orientation meeting before starting classes.
- Students are required to attend a face-to-face check-in with their designated facilitator. If students cannot participate in face-to-face, a video meeting may be held at the discretion of the teacher/facilitator. In certain situations, other designated faculty may conduct this meeting.
 - If a student misses a check-in, the VHS-C will consider appropriate action(s).
 - If a student misses multiple, their participation in the program could be in jeopardy.
 - These weekly meetings may be conducted via online format (Microsoft TEAMS, ZOOM, etc.) at the discretion of the teacher/facilitator.
- Students must maintain a passing grade in each course taken, as determined by the Pike County Schools grading scale.
- Students must maintain adequate progress within the PLP. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.
- Students must remain in good standing with the Pike County Schools, adhering to all Pike County Schools Board of Education policies, including attendance, academic integrity, and student code of conduct.
- Students who commit a disciplinary infraction that would typically result in Out of School Suspension or Expulsion from school put their participation in the VHS program in jeopardy. The VHS-C will determine an appropriate response.
- Students will adhere to the Pike County School attendance policy and attend classes regularly in accordance with the Board calendar. The student attendance requirement is met by being on-pace in coursework, maintaining weekly check-ins, and maintaining an overall passing grade on coursework.

- Students and parents will provide their transportation to the school for weekly check-ins.
- A check-in schedule will be developed based on student, parent, and teacher/facilitator considerations.
- Students whose PLP is determined via 504 Plan or IEP may participate in the VHS-C program. In such cases, the 504 or IEP committee will determine appropriate parameters.
- The educational setting can only be changed by the IEP, 504, or VHS committees.
- General guidelines for VHS-C:
 - Parent
 - Student
 - Virtual Facilitator
 - Administrator
 - Guidance Counselor