VIRTUAL COURSES

Definitions

Virtual Course – A class that is offered by or provided through the district that results in a district-issued grade and/or academic credit and that is designed to deliver all or most of the curriculum electronically. Students may be separated from their instructor or teacher of record by time, location or both.

General

Virtual instruction can be an effective education option for some students, and the district may offer virtual courses to students through district staff or by contracting for those services as part of the district-sponsored curriculum. Eligible students may also enroll in Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) courses in accordance with policy IGCDA. The district will accept all grades and credits earned through district-sponsored virtual instruction and MOCAP.

Before a student independently enrolls in and pays for virtual courses not otherwise accessible through the district, the district recommends that the student meet with district staff to ensure that the course aligns with the student's education goals and that the district will accept the course credit.

Virtual Course Behavior and Expectations

Students taking courses virtually are subject to district policies, procedures and rules applicable to students enrolled in traditional courses including, but not limited to, the district's code of conduct and prohibitions on academic dishonesty, discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.

When students are participating in virtual courses, what can be seen and heard electronically from the student's location becomes part of the district's education environment. Students are responsible for ensuring that what is seen, heard or otherwise communicated is appropriate for the learning environment and is not disruptive. The district's code of conduct applies to virtual in-class behavior. Student speech that is prohibited on campus is also prohibited in the virtual classroom. In a virtual classroom, such conduct or speech could include, but is not limited to, messaging conveyed by symbols or phrases that are visible on clothing; signage in the visible background; virtual background imagery; graphics or text visible during screen sharing; background audio; communications in classroom chats; disruptive screen names; and any other messaging a student places into the virtual environment that disrupts learning, is not appropriate for the education environment or is contrary to the district's educational mission.

Students may electronically display everyday items that they would be prohibited from possessing at school (such as pets, toys or objects forming typical room décor) as long as the display does not disrupt learning.

Virtual Course Enrollment

The superintendent or designee will establish open enrollment periods and registration deadlines for students to enroll in district-offered virtual courses and MOCAP courses. These enrollment periods and registration deadlines will be strictly enforced unless the superintendent or designee determines that an exception is warranted due to circumstances such as a change in a student's health or the long-term suspension of a student. Enrollment periods and registration deadlines must align with the district's academic calendar and assessment schedule to the extent practicable.

If the request to take a virtual course is denied, students or their parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee, and the superintendent's or designee's decision will be final. Requests to take MOCAP courses will be processed as required by law as outlined in policy IGCDA.

Attendance and Completion

Students who enroll in district-sponsored virtual courses or MOCAP courses through the district are expected to actively participate in those courses with the goal of completing the course. If a student does not actively participate in a course or is not progressing in the course, the district may remove the student from the virtual course and refuse to enroll the student in virtual courses in the future.

Students enrolled in virtual courses are expected to complete all course requirements in the time allotted for the course. Extensions of time to complete a virtual course will be permitted only in situations where completion of the course in the allotted time would be impossible due to factors beyond the student's control.

Students enrolled in a district-sponsored course or MOCAP course through the district will be considered in attendance for state aid purposes in accordance with law. A completed virtual course or MOCAP course shall be counted as no less than 95 percent attendance for purposes of A+ Scholarship Program eligibility.

End-of-Course (EOC) Examinations

Students are required to take the state-mandated EOC examinations administered by the district regardless of whether the course for which the examination is required was taken virtually or in person.

*Note: **The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted:11/15/2018

Revised: 08/26/2021, 05/25/2023

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Illegal Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation
               BDC, Closed Meetings, Records and Votes
               BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings
               JEA, Compulsory and Part-Time Attendance
               JECC, Assignment of Students to Grade Levels/Classes
               JFCF, Bullying
               JG-R1, Student Discipline
               JHD, Student Counseling Program

Legal Refs: §§ 161.670; 610.021, RSMo.
               Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 - 1417
               The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794
               Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 - 12213
               34 C.F.R. Part 104
               34 C.F.R. Part 300

Sample R-I School District, Anywhere MO