

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**



**FCCSC VIRTUAL ACADEMY STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

## **Welcome to the FCCSC Virtual Academy**

The Franklin County Community School Corporation (FCCSC) Virtual Academy provides students with a flexible learning environment while maintaining FCCSC's high academic expectations and standards. The Virtual Academy allows students to complete coursework remotely while remaining connected to their school community and receiving support from FCCSC staff.

The goal of the Virtual Academy is to provide students with an educational option that promotes academic growth, responsibility, independence, and success.

Virtual learning offers flexibility; however, students remain responsible for meeting all academic expectations, graduation requirements, and behavioral expectations established by FCCSC and the State of Indiana.

## **Handbook Applicability**

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy remain students of Franklin County Community School Corporation and are subject to all applicable Board policies, school rules, procedures, and expectations as well as the current FCMS/FCHS Student Handbook and FCMS/FCHS Academic Handbook. These documents are incorporated by reference into this handbook and carry the same force and effect as if fully reproduced herein.

Parents and students are responsible for reviewing and complying with all handbook provisions. The most current versions of these handbooks and policies are available on the FCCSC website.

In the event of a conflict between this handbook and another FCCSC handbook, policy, or procedure, the corporation reserves the right to determine the appropriate interpretation and application of the applicable provisions.

Enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy signifies acceptance of and agreement to comply with all applicable handbook provisions, board policies, procedures, and expectations established by Franklin County Community School Corporation.

## **Related Handbook Documents**

The following documents should be reviewed in conjunction with this handbook:

- FCCSC Virtual Academy Handbook
- FCMS Student Handbook
- FCMS Academic Handbook
- FCHS Student Handbook
- FCHS Academic Handbook
- FCCSC Board Policies

## **Program Overview**

The FCCSC Virtual Academy utilizes district-approved online curriculum and learning management systems to deliver instruction and coursework.

Students are expected to:

- Participate actively in coursework each school day.
- Make satisfactory academic progress.
- Communicate regularly with assigned FCCSC staff.

- Complete assignments by established deadlines.
- Follow all FCCSC policies and expectations.
- Maintain academic integrity in all coursework.

Virtual learning offers flexibility; however, students remain responsible for meeting all academic expectations and graduation requirements established by FCCSC and the State of Indiana.

### **Curriculum and Learning Platform**

The FCCSC Virtual Academy utilizes Edmentum as its primary online learning platform for course delivery, instruction, assessments, and assignment completion.

Students are expected to complete coursework through Edmentum and any other district-approved resources as directed by FCCSC staff.

Student progress will be monitored regularly to ensure satisfactory academic growth and course completion.

Virtual Academy students are expected to meet all course, credit, and graduation requirements applicable to FCCSC students.

### **Academic Calendar**

Virtual Academy students are expected to follow the Franklin County Community School Corporation academic calendar, including grading periods, holidays, breaks, semester schedules, and other designated school days unless otherwise approved by the corporation.

### **Parent and Guardian Responsibilities**

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting student success within the FCCSC Virtual Academy.

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Monitor student progress and academic performance.
- Maintain current contact information with the school.
- Ensure students have access to a productive learning environment.
- Encourage regular participation and completion of coursework.
- Communicate with FCCSC staff regarding questions, concerns, or academic difficulties.
- Support compliance with all FCCSC policies, procedures, and expectations.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to maintain ongoing communication with FCCSC staff to ensure students remain on track academically and behaviorally.

### **Residency and Supervision Requirements**

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy must reside with a parent, legal guardian, or approved caregiver who can provide appropriate supervision and support for participation in the program.

Parents and guardians are expected to ensure that students have access to a safe, productive, and appropriate learning environment and are actively engaged in their educational responsibilities.

Failure to maintain appropriate supervision, support, or residency requirements may result in a review of the student's continued enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy.

### **Technology and Internet Access**

Students are expected to use all district-issued devices and resources in accordance with FCCSC policies and procedures.

Families are responsible for maintaining reliable internet access sufficient to participate in the Virtual Academy and complete required coursework.

Technical difficulties do not automatically excuse missed assignments, attendance requirements, or academic responsibilities.

Students and families should promptly communicate technology-related concerns to FCCSC personnel.

Students and families may be financially responsible for lost, stolen, or intentionally damaged equipment in accordance with district policies.

### **Student Communication Expectations**

Successful virtual learning requires consistent communication.

Students are expected to regularly monitor their FCCSC email account and respond to communications from teachers, administrators, counselors, and other school personnel in a timely manner.

Official school communications may be delivered through FCCSC email, Edmentum, phone calls, virtual meetings, or other approved communication methods.

Failure to maintain communication may impact a student's standing within the Virtual Academy and may result in intervention, probationary status, or a review of continued enrollment.

### **Attendance Expectations**

Regular participation is essential for student success.

### **Daily Attendance Requirement**

A student will be considered present for the school day when both of the following conditions are met:

1. The student completes at least three (3) hours of active participation within the online learning platform; and
2. The student completes at least one (1) academic assignment during that school day.

### **Attendance Disclaimer**

The attendance standard described above represents the minimum requirement for being counted as present for the day. Meeting only the minimum attendance requirement does not guarantee academic success. Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy should expect to devote sufficient time each day to complete coursework, stay current with assignments, and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

FCCSC strongly recommends that students plan for approximately six (6) hours of active academic participation each school day in order to maximize learning and achieve success in the Virtual Academy.

Students who consistently fail to meet attendance expectations or make satisfactory academic progress may be subject to intervention, probationary status, transfer to a traditional school setting, or removal from the Virtual Academy program. State law requires withdrawal from the virtual setting at the 10 consecutive absences mark or 18 total absences mark.

### **Progress Monitoring and Academic Support**

Student progress will be reviewed regularly throughout the school year.

Students who fall behind expected pacing, fail to make satisfactory academic progress, or demonstrate concerns related to attendance, participation, communication, or course completion may be required to participate in additional meetings, interventions, support plans, or conferences with school personnel.

FCCSC reserves the right to implement academic improvement measures designed to support student success.

Failure to demonstrate improvement may result in probationary status or a review of continued enrollment in the Virtual Academy.

### **Academic Expectations**

Students are expected to:

- Complete coursework with integrity and honesty.
- Submit assignments by established deadlines.
- Demonstrate consistent academic progress.
- Maintain communication with teachers and support staff.
- Seek assistance when academic difficulties arise.
- Participate in required assessments and state testing programs.

Students who fall behind academically may be required to participate in intervention meetings, academic improvement plans, or additional support services.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to complete their own work and adhere to all academic honesty standards.

Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Plagiarism
- Copying another student's work
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Use of artificial intelligence or online resources in violation of teacher expectations
- Misrepresentation of participation or assignment completion

Violations may result in disciplinary action and academic consequences, including removal from courses, loss of credit, or other consequences consistent with FCCSC policies and procedures.

## **Student Conduct**

Virtual Academy students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in all communications, virtual meetings, school-sponsored activities, and interactions with staff and students.

Students are expected to demonstrate respectful, responsible, and appropriate behavior consistent with FCCSC expectations.

Student behavior remains subject to FCCSC disciplinary procedures and Board policies.

Participation in the Virtual Academy does not exempt a student from any applicable student conduct expectations established by FCCSC.

## **Required In-Person Meetings and Assessments**

Although the FCCSC Virtual Academy is primarily an online educational program, students may be required to report to FCCSC facilities for educational purposes.

Required in-person activities may include, but are not limited to:

- State-mandated assessments.
- Corporation-required testing.
- Enrollment meetings.
- Academic conferences.
- Intervention meetings.
- Counseling services.
- Special education meetings.
- Disciplinary meetings.
- Other educational purposes as determined by FCCSC.

Failure to attend required meetings or assessments may impact continued enrollment in the Virtual Academy.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students who qualify for services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan will continue to receive services and accommodations in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and the student's educational plan.

The corporation reserves the right to review whether the Virtual Academy remains the most appropriate educational placement to meet the student's individual needs.

## **State Testing and Required Assessments**

Virtual Academy students are required to participate in all state-mandated assessments and any corporation-required testing programs unless otherwise exempted by law.

Testing locations, schedules, and procedures will be communicated by FCCSC.

Failure to participate in required assessments may result in a review of continued enrollment in the Virtual Academy.

## **Participation in School Activities, Athletics, and Field Trips**

Students who are fully enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy and reside within the corporation's attendance boundaries may participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations provided they meet all eligibility requirements established by FCCSC and IHSAA, the applicable student handbook, and any governing organization.

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy may request permission to participate in selected school-sponsored field trips, dances, assemblies, social activities, and other special events. Participation is not automatic and must be approved on a case-by-case basis.

To be eligible for consideration, a student must:

- Be in good academic standing.
- Be meeting attendance and participation expectations.
- Be in compliance with all FCCSC policies and handbook requirements.
- Receive approval from both the building principal and the Superintendent.

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy as an alternative placement in lieu of expulsion are not eligible to participate in field trips, dances, social events, extracurricular activities, athletics, or other non-academic school-sponsored activities during their enrollment in the program.

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy who reside outside the Franklin County Community School Corporation attendance boundaries are not eligible to participate in field trips, dances, social activities, assemblies, or other non-academic school-sponsored events. Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities by out-of-district students will be governed by applicable FCCSC policies and the rules of any governing organization.

The Superintendent reserves the right to approve, deny, suspend, or revoke participation privileges based on student conduct, attendance, academic progress, residency status, safety considerations, or other factors deemed relevant to the student's success and the program's operation.

## **Virtual Academy Probation**

Students may be placed on Virtual Academy Probation when concerns exist regarding attendance, participation, communication, behavior, academic progress, course completion, or compliance with FCCSC expectations.

Probation may include additional monitoring, required meetings, progress checks, intervention plans, or other support measures.

Failure to successfully address concerns while on probation may result in a student's transfer to Franklin County Middle School (FCMS) or Franklin County High School (FCHS), as applicable, or removal from the Virtual Academy.

## **Enrollment and Continued Participation**

Enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy is a privilege and an educational option offered by Franklin County Community School Corporation. Continued participation is contingent upon a student's ability to meet program expectations.

The FCCSC Virtual Academy is intended for students who can demonstrate the ability to learn successfully in a virtual environment. Enrollment may be reviewed at any time when concerns exist regarding attendance, academic performance, communication, behavior, or overall student success. FCCSC reserves the right to determine whether continued participation in the Virtual Academy is in the student's best educational interest.

Students may be placed on an improvement plan, probationary status, transferred to a traditional school setting, or removed from the Virtual Academy if they:

- Fail to meet attendance requirements.
- Fail to make satisfactory academic progress.
- Fail to maintain communication with school personnel.
- Violate FCCSC policies or handbook expectations.
- Engage in academic dishonesty.
- Demonstrate that the Virtual Academy is not an appropriate educational placement.

Students who are not demonstrating academic success, consistent participation, satisfactory progress toward course completion, or compliance with Virtual Academy expectations may be required to return to a traditional school setting at Franklin County Middle School (FCMS) or Franklin County High School (FCHS), as applicable.

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to determine whether continued enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy is in the student's best educational interest. When it is determined that a student's academic, behavioral, attendance, social-emotional, or educational needs are not being adequately met through the Virtual Academy, the student may be required to enroll in FCMS or FCHS accordingly.

The decision of the Superintendent or designee regarding continued participation in the FCCSC Virtual Academy shall be final.

### **Withdrawal from the Virtual Academy**

FCCSC reserves the right to review student participation, attendance, behavior, communication, and academic progress at any time.

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the FCCSC Virtual Academy or who are required to return to a traditional educational setting shall be enrolled at Franklin County Middle School (FCMS) or Franklin County High School (FCHS), as applicable, and shall be subject to all policies, procedures, academic requirements, and expectations of that school.

The Superintendent or designee shall have final authority regarding continued enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy.

### **Graduation and Diplomas**

Students enrolled in the FCCSC Virtual Academy are expected to meet all graduation requirements established by the State of Indiana and Franklin County Community School Corporation.

Students who successfully complete all applicable state and local graduation requirements shall be eligible to receive a high school diploma issued by the school designated by Franklin County Community School Corporation and the Indiana Department of Education for enrollment, transcript, accountability, and graduation reporting purposes.

Participation in the FCCSC Virtual Academy does not alter a student's responsibility to meet all applicable diploma, credit, graduation pathway, assessment, and graduation requirements established by the State of Indiana and FCCSC.

Students who satisfy all graduation requirements may be eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies and other graduation-related activities in accordance with FCCSC policies, procedures, and eligibility requirements.

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to determine the application of graduation requirements and diploma issuance consistent with Indiana law, Indiana Department of Education guidance, and FCCSC policies.

**Handbook Revision Clause**

Franklin County Community School Corporation reserves the right to amend, revise, suspend, interpret, or discontinue any provision of this handbook at any time.

When conflicts exist between handbook language and FCCSC Board Policy, Board Policy shall govern.

The most current version of this handbook shall be maintained by FCCSC and made available to students and families.

**Virtual Academy Contact Information**

FCCSC Virtual Academy

Franklin County Community School Corporation  
225 E. 10th Street  
Brookville, Indiana 47012

Superintendent: Dustin Gehring

**Parent/Student Acknowledgment**

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the FCCSC Virtual Academy Student Handbook. I understand that enrollment in the FCCSC Virtual Academy requires compliance with all applicable FCCSC Board Policies, FCMS/FCHS Student Handbooks, FCMS/FCHS Academic Handbooks, and the provisions contained within this handbook.

I understand that continued participation in the FCCSC Virtual Academy is contingent upon meeting attendance, participation, academic, communication, and behavioral expectations established by Franklin County Community School Corporation.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year: 2026–2027