Houston Connect Virtual Learning
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is virtual learning available for my child for the Spring 2027 semester?
A. The district offers families the option to apply for Houston Connect Virtual Learning on a semester basis. Applications for Spring 2027 will be accepted from November 16 at 4:00 p.m. through December 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Q. How can parents apply for virtual learning?
A. The application will be available through the student's primary guardian account in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Q. Does my child need to complete an application for Spring 2027?
A. Students currently attending school in person who wish to remain in person do not need to apply. Students currently enrolled in virtual learning who wish to remain virtual also do not need to reapply unless they are requesting Academy of Innovation (AoI) or extracurricular participation. Families requesting a change between in-person and virtual learning must complete the application. Current virtual learning students may use the application to request a return to their zoned school.

Q. What is Houston Connect Virtual Learning?
A. Houston Connect Virtual Learning provides online instruction for students in grades 3–12. Students receive instruction through virtual learning platforms, including Courseware and Zoom, and have assigned teachers.

Q. Are there any special requirements to participate in Houston Connect Virtual Learning?
A. To participate in virtual learning, students must:

- commit to virtual learning for the entire semester for which they are approved;
- have reliable internet access at home;
- be available for instruction during regular school hours;
- log in and participate in class to be counted as present;
- meet all academic and attendance requirements;
- take district- and state-mandated standardized tests in person; and
- be enrolled or eligible for enrollment in the Houston County School District.

Q. What is Courseware?
A. Courseware is the software used by middle and high school virtual students. The virtual courses are aligned to state standards and supported by professionally qualified teachers who interact with students by posting assignments, grading assignments, and messaging to distribute information and answer questions. Courses are offered in math, science, language arts, social studies, career and technical education, world languages, and electives.

Q. How do students access virtual platforms?
A. Teachers will contact their students through their school email and other communication tools. Students will access Courseware through the district Single Sign On portal. Teachers will respond through email, phone calls, texts, and other communication tools.

Q. Once a student begins virtual learning, must they remain enrolled for the entire semester?
A. Yes, students will remain enrolled in virtual learning for the entire semester for which they applied unless removed for academic or attendance reasons.

Q. Will virtual students have the ability to meet with their teachers for assistance after school hours?
A. After-hours teacher support depends on each teacher's schedule, as it does for in-person instruction. Middle and high school students participating in virtual learning may receive face-to-face support at the Houston Connect Learning Lab (215 Scott Boulevard, Warner Robins, GA).

Q. Will teachers have the ability to review the student's course submissions?
A. Yes, teachers will use the digital learning platform to review student work and offer feedback.

Q. Will virtual students be provided textbooks?
A. Virtual students will not be given textbooks. All assignments and support resources will be online.

Q. What is the plan for students to learn virtually and in the classroom at the same pace?
A. Students who attend school and those learning virtually will follow the same curriculum and pacing guides. Just as lessons vary by teacher from classroom to classroom and school to school, one can expect variances in virtual learning since students work at different levels. In addition, there will be some variance in pacing by nature of the delivery model, with virtual students learning through digital platforms.

Q. How will attendance be taken for students in virtual learning?
A. Attendance will be taken by attending required Zoom sessions and completing work through Courseware regularly.

Q. Can my child switch from in-person instruction to virtual learning during the school year?
A. Families may apply for virtual learning for the following semester during the designated application window. Acceptance is based on availability and the student meeting established eligibility requirements.

Q. Are Courseware courses set up to reflect the classes middle and high school students need?
A. Yes. Students will be assigned a virtual schedule based on their course needs and graduation requirements.

Q. Will students be provided with a course schedule with times they should be working on a particular subject?
A. Students will be given a course schedule of times to meet with their teachers for lessons and support. Students will also work on assignments independently at other times.

Q. Will students be provided a course syllabus that reflects the percentage of the

assignments and exams?
A. Students will receive information about assignments and grading expectations during the first week of school.

Q. What electives and CTAE courses are offered for middle school students through virtual learning?
A. A full list of middle school courses is available on the district website at www.hcbe.net

Q. What electives are offered for high school students through virtual learning?
A. A full list of high school courses is available on the district website at www.hcbe.net

Q. Will world language courses be offered virtually?
A. Yes, high school students will be offered Spanish.

Q. What about Advanced Placement (AP) classes for virtual learning?
A. No. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are not currently offered through virtual learning.

Q. Will families arriving after the application window ends be able to apply for virtual?
A. During the new student enrollment process at Central Registration, families will have the option of applying for virtual learning. Transfer records will be required for application consideration.

Q. Do the Houston Connect Virtual Learning teachers work for the district?
A. Houston Connect Virtual Learning teachers are professionally qualified educators employed by the Houston County School District.

Q. For virtual learning, would the teacher be from a student's zoned school?
A. Virtual teachers will be assigned classes based on the enrollment for the district by grade level and/or course. Teachers will not be from a student's zoned school.

Q. How do I apply for Houston Connect Virtual Learning?
A. Please visit our district website, www.hcbe.net for directions to complete an online form using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Q. Will my student who was referred to special education be scheduled for their evaluation?
A. Yes, educational evaluations will be done.

Q. Will virtual students who require special education services be provided through Houston Connect Virtual Learning?
A. Yes, students accepted into virtual learning will receive their support services if they can be provided virtually. If not, students will need to attend in-person school.

Dual Enrollment

Q. Can students who are dual enrolled in college courses participate in Houston Connect Virtual Learning?

A. Yes. Dual enrollment students may participate in virtual learning for courses they would otherwise take at their zoned high school. For college courses, students must follow the guidelines and requirements established by their college.

Gifted and Talented Education (GTE)

Q. Will students receive gifted services in both in-person and virtual learning?
A. Students eligible for gifted services will receive gifted curriculum through their assigned teachers. Lessons will be aligned with state gifted standards.

Q. How would the curriculum be designed for middle school gifted students?
A. Middle school gifted students will be assigned lessons using Courseware with differentiated lessons and enrichment components.

Q. What honors courses are offered through Houston Connect Virtual Learning?
A. The following honors courses are offered to our high school students:

- 9th Grade Literature
- 10th Grade Literature
- American Literature
- British Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- World History
- U.S. History
- U.S. Government and Politics.

Q. If my child participates in virtual learning, may they also participate in extracurricular or on-campus activities?
A. When applying for virtual learning, families may select extracurricular activities their child would like to participate in at their zoned school. Participation is subject to availability at the school.

Q. Can my child request Academy of Innovation (AoI) participation through the virtual learning application?
A. Yes. Families may request AoI participation through the same application used for virtual learning and extracurricular activities. Requests will be reviewed, and acceptance is based on availability and the student meeting established eligibility requirements.

Testing

Q. Will virtual and on-campus students take the same state-mandated tests?
A. Yes. All students, whether enrolled in virtual or in-person learning, must take state-mandated assessments in person. Failure to meet these testing requirements will result in ineligibility for future enrollment in virtual learning.

Q. How will students take the state-mandated tests?
A. District and state-mandated standardized tests will be taken in person.

Grades Pre-K–2

Q. Is Houston Connect Virtual Learning available for students in grades Pre-K–2? If not, is there another online option?
A. The district offers only in-person instruction for students in grades Pre-K–2.

Communication

Q. How will we have parent-teacher conferences?
A. Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled virtually using Zoom or may be held by phone.

Q. How will parents access the most current information?
A. Visit the school and district websites for the most current information.

Updating Parent Contact Information

Q. If I am not receiving automated calls from the district, how can I update my contact information?
A. Update your contact information in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal using the directions on the district's Infinite Campus webpage. You must have a parent account to access your child's record. Instructions for creating an account are also available on our website.

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal is also used to apply for virtual learning. Before applying, please verify your email address and phone numbers, including cell, work, and other contact numbers, to ensure that you receive important announcements.

More Information and Support

Q. Where can I find more information?
A. Visit the Houston County School District website at www.hcbe.net. Feel free to contact our Virtual Specialist, Dr. Lakeshia Williams at lakeshia.williams@hcbe.net.