

DISTANCE, ONLINE, AND VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Code **IJNDAA** Issued **8/21**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for providing technology-delivered courses as an alternative means of instruction for students.

The district will utilize technology-delivered courses as part of its educational program to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction in the district. In addition to regular, classroom-based instruction, students in the district may earn credit through accredited distance, online, or virtual learning courses operated through the district's program and/or the state-run virtual education program.

District Courses

All technology-delivered programs and courses offered by the district will be consistent with state academic standards and instructional goals of the district, ensuring both the rigor of the course and the quality of instruction. The district will review instructional materials periodically to ensure they meet program standards.

The district will integrate technology-delivered instruction as part of the regular instruction provided by a certified teacher in the district for grades K through 12.

Grades nine through 12

Students in grades nine through 12 may earn units of academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing technology-delivered courses offered through agencies/universities approved by the board within the established procedures and recommendations regulated by Latta High School for such.

A student may earn credit for a distance, online, or virtual learning course under the following circumstances:

- The high school does not offer the course due to lack of certified personnel.
- The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended medical homebound instruction.
- The district has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
- The principal, with agreement from the student's parent/legal guardian and teachers, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- The student needs the course for credit recovery.
- The student needs the course to meet graduation requirements.
- The student must be enrolled in a school in the district and, if applicable, will take the course during the regular school day at the school site.

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The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation.

Application for courses

Students applying for permission to take a technology-delivered course must do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm that he/she possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in a distance, online, or virtual learning environment.
- Obtain the approval of the principal or his/her designee before enrolling in a technology-delivered course.
- Adhere to the district code of conduct to include rules of behavior, consequences for violations, and signed student agreements.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the district.

Middle and high school student qualifications

Students in middle and high school may make application to their school to be considered for Latta Schools' sponsored virtual services. No elementary school virtual services are provided. Applications will be reviewed by school administration for acceptance. Any parent/legal guardian denied application for virtual services may appeal such to the district superintendent. Any parent/legal guardian may also appeal the district superintendent's decision to the board.

Parents/Legal guardians requesting Latta Schools' sponsored virtual services must do so at least three (3) weeks prior to the beginning of any 9 week grade report session. Those students accepted must remain in virtual services for any entire nine weeks before returning back to face to face instruction. Those that request to return to face-to-face instruction must do so at least three (3) weeks prior to the ending of any 9 weeks grade report session.

Application

Applications for Latta Schools' sponsored virtual service may be picked up at any school, the district office, or online on the district website.

Any student must meet the following criteria/qualifications in order to be accepted in the virtual services program:

- The parent/legal guardian must reside in the Latta School District.
- The parent/legal guardian must have proper internet service to access the virtual service program.
- The student must have evidence of:
 1. no previous school attendance issues
 2. no previous continued or major discipline issues
 3. average or better grades in all subjects/classes
 4. exhibited technology skills related to virtual service
 5. supportive recommendations from previous teachers gathered by administration that supports the student's ability and work ethic to be successful in a virtual service program

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- Exceptions may be made for students in the following status:
 1. a health related issue documented by their doctor necessitating a home based service
 2. any other issue necessitating a homebound situation
 3. any administrative placement for an alternative setting due to discipline issues
 4. as a result of an IEP requirement - virtual students may participate in certain school activities as approved by the principal at each school.
 5. previous success in a virtual service program.

District review committee

The superintendent will establish a committee to review all technology-delivered courses prior to use by the district.

Evaluation

The district will evaluate the educational effectiveness of the technology-delivered courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state academic standards as well as student satisfaction. The district will use this evaluation to decide whether to grant credit for the course or to continue or discontinue the use of the technology-delivered course.

The school will pay the tuition fee for the course for students enrolled full time. The board will pay the fee for students who are permitted to take technology-delivered courses in alternative settings.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a “virtual library” available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance, and hands-on training and information.

The school will be responsible for providing applicable in-school supervision and monitoring of students enrolled in technology-delivered courses.

The district will not use distance, online, or virtual education courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K through eight.

State-Run Virtual Education Program

The state-run virtual education program offers public, private, or home schooled students’ access to technology-driven courses. These courses may be offered to district students for an initial unit of credit and for access to credit recovery programs under guidelines established by the State Board of Education.

The district will transcribe the student’s final numeric grade to the student’s permanent grade and transcript.

Students enrolled in these courses will take final exams and appropriate state assessments in a proctored environment.

Nothing in state law requires the district to provide either home computer equipment or Internet access to a student enrolling in this program.

This virtual education program will not award a South Carolina high school diploma.

Cf. IHBG, IHBH

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Adopted 10/10/00; Revised 4/12/05, 11/13/07, 10/14/08, 3/11/14, 9/9/14, 8/10/21

Legal References:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-16-10, *et seq.* - South Carolina Virtual School Program.
- B. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:
 - 1. R43-248 - Virtual education program.