

Hardy County Schools

Virtual School Policy

Effective July 1, 2018, the Hardy County School system shall offer students an online pathway for earning a high school diploma. The school system will provide a virtual option for students in grades K-12 with course opportunities consistent with the state's academic standards, curriculum frameworks, and assessments.

The district reserves the right to set a capacity limit per semester for virtual enrollment. Applications for first semester must be received by August 1, each year. Applications for second semester must be received by December 1, each year. Students may enter or exit a virtual program at the semester end/start only. Exceptions may be made if students are failing, at risk of failing, or have a medical diagnosis that supports the need for virtual learning.

Student Eligibility and Requirements

Students who meet the following requirements are eligible to participate in the virtual education program:

- Enrolled in Hardy County Schools as a full-time student (8 half credit courses per semester)
- Meet school system and/or state enrollment requirements for the county school system, including health requirements such as immunizations, physicals, dentals, etc.
- Meet school system and/or state enrollment requirements for the course(s) in questions including successful completion of any prerequisite courses
- Maintain a minimum grade of a 60 on a numerical grade scale in courses taken during the current academic year
- Have access to consistent, daily internet service
- Weekly communication is required

Attendance

Students participating in the virtual education option will be considered as being in attendance if the students are successfully progressing in the virtual education coursework. Successful progression will mean completing courses to graduate with one's four-year cohort. Students are required to submit assignments and interact on a weekly basis.

The school system reserves the right to set specific attendance requirements for each virtual course. The superintendent or their designee is authorized to develop alternate attendance policies for virtual courses, provided that students in such programs are given notice of the attendance requirements. A student's failure to comply with such requirements may result in administrative action including, but not limited to, probation or removal from the class or a charge of truancy, if appropriate.

All full-time virtual students will be enrolled as a student in the school zone in which they reside. These students will be counted in the average daily membership. All full-time virtual students will participate in all state testing and accountability requirements. Upon satisfying all graduation requirements, students enrolled in the virtual pathway will receive a high school diploma from Hardy County Schools.

Extracurricular Activities

Students enrolled as a full-time student in the virtual pathway are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled according to attendance zone.

Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program including any applicable WVSSAC requirements. Student residency for purposes of participating in extracurricular activities will be determined in accordance with applicable Hardy County Schools' policies and WVSSAC policies.

Course Progression

Students are required to progress through online courses at a rate comparable to the progression of a traditional class. Student performance will be monitored and reported on regular intervals consistent with a traditional day program by the virtual school representative at the attending school.

Removal/Withdrawal

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional day program or returned to homeschool for the following reasons:

- Not maintaining a 60 percent in each course
- Progression through coursework falls below the minimum comparable tradition course standard (8 courses per semester)
- Attendance requirements are not met (please refer to the attendance section)
- Cheating, falsifying information, plagiarizing
- School system policies, procedures, rules or regulations are violated, including rules governing the use of technology

Student Support

- Face to face tutoring will be available ½ day per week at two sites within the county upon the student's request.
- IEP committees will meet to determine the most appropriate, least restrictive environment and the most reasonable accommodations for eligible students
- ELL committees will meet to determine the most reasonable accommodations for eligible students

Counseling and Guidance Services

Hardy County schools will utilize personnel to assist with academic, career, and social needs as they arise. In conjunction with school counselors, students will be assisted with developing an educational plan based on transcripts, standardized assessments, career interests, and other pertinent data. The plan will be reviewed periodically to assess its appropriateness and progress toward completion.

Student Responsibilities

Students should spend the first days making sure they are comfortable with the technology of online learning and they are capable of mastering the content. Students are responsible for maintaining reliable, daily access to internet. Computer/internet problems will not be accepted as reasons for delays in meeting deadlines. Only through continuous communication and consistent work can students be successful in an online course. It is essential that students maintain regular contact with their instructor and submit assignments on time. If any student has not begun the course after two weeks from the enrollment date, the student will be automatically removed. Students must let the school administrator know immediately if he/she needs courses on the NCAA approval list. Parents/Guardians play a vital role in their child's education. Parents/Guardians need to ensure there is access to the necessary technology. They need to monitor their child's progress and grades on the virtual courses. It is important that parents/guardians provide structure and guidance when helping their child with the coursework.

Technology

Reliable, daily internet access is the responsibility of the family. Hardy County Schools will make accessible a limited number of computers for students to check out on a semester basis. This will be done on a first come-first serve basis to those needing the service. If a student damages or loses school property, the student or his/her parents/guardians will be required to pay for replacement or damage. Use of such technology will follow county policy and requirements.

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

DATE: February 19, 2018 – June 17, 2019 – July 6, 2020 – December 4, 2023