

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

I. Purpose.

1.1. Raleigh County Schools offers students an online pathway for earning a high school diploma. The school system provides a virtual option for all students in grades 6-12 and homebound students in grades K-5 with course opportunities consistent with the West Virginia Board of Education's academic standards, curriculum frameworks, and assessments.

1.2. Virtual courses will be delivered through the WV Virtual School and/or district-approved learning management systems. Any online course delivery must be approved and supported by the West Virginia Department of Education and comply with state and federal privacy laws.

1.3. Raleigh County Schools reserves the right to set a capacity limit per semester for virtual enrollment. The Superintendent reserves the right to close applications, due to staff availability, by public announcement.

II. Definitions.

2.1. Blended program. A formal education program in which a student learns:

- a. At least in part through online learning, with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace;
- b. At least in part in a supervised setting outside the home; and
- c. In such a way that the modalities of each student's learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.

2.2. Full-time student. Student enrolled for the full instructional day and completing required courses for a West Virginia public school diploma (this number would be based upon the number of instructional periods offered daily).

2.3. Full-time virtual program. Formal education program in which a student learns through a total online learning environment/platform.

2.4. Part-time student. Student enrolled up to 50% of the instructional day. This would include all students who are homeschooled or attend a private/parochial school but attend public school for up to 50% of the instructional day.

2.5. Virtual course. A virtual pathway course offered by Raleigh County Schools that meets the specified West Virginia Board of Education-approved standards for that course.

2.6. Virtual education program (virtual school program). A program implemented by a county board or multicounty consortium that provides a full-time online or blended program of instruction for students enrolled in any composition of grades 6-12.

2.7. Traditional student. Student enrolled as a full-time student and attending the face-to-face, traditional school program provided by Raleigh County Schools.

III. Student Eligibility and Requirements.

3.1. Students shall meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate in the virtual education program:

1. Must be a resident of Raleigh County and in grades 6-12.
2. Parents and students must successfully complete a district-defined virtual education orientation course/program/session.
3. Meet school system and/or state enrollment requirements to include health requirements such as, but not limited to, immunizations (or documented exemption), physicals, and dentals exams.
4. Meet the school system and/or state enrollment requirements for the course(s) in question including successful completion of any prerequisite courses.
5. Have daily, reliable access to a device capable of accessing the WV Virtual School and/or district-approved learning management systems.
6. Have access to consistent, daily internet service.
7. Respond to school system communication in a timely manner.
8. Participate in all state testing and accountability requirements, as applicable.

3.2. Transition from Virtual School to Traditional School. Upon enrollment in Virtual School, a student may only transition to Traditional School (1) prior to the established Virtual School withdrawal period, (2) at the beginning of the next semester, or (3) for failure to meet the requirements set forth in section VII of this policy.

3.3. If a student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the student's IEP team must reconvene to determine if FAPE can be provided in a virtual environment.

IV. Attendance

4.1. All students enrolled in the district's virtual school program must log on to the district's virtual school platform for live sessions established each virtual school week and actively participate in all live sessions for the full days.

4.2. Students who do not successfully complete the live sessions of virtual school each week will be marked absent for each of the days not completed (e.g., one day absent, two days absent, three days absent).

4.3. Truancy. Raleigh County Schools will follow W. Va. Code, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4110: Attendance, and RCBOE Policy D.3.1: Attendance Policy for those students not in attendance for virtual school as established in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this policy.

4.4. Successful progression will mean completing courses to graduate with one's four-year cohort.

4.5. All full-time virtual students will be enrolled as a student in the high school, or middle school zone in which they reside. These students will be counted in the average daily membership.

V. Assessment, Grading, and Diploma

5.1. All virtual students will participate in all state testing and accountability requirements. Students are required to participate at the location (e.g., school, central office) identified by the county.

5.2. Upon satisfying all public-school graduation requirements set forth in West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) Policy 2510: Assuring Quality Education: Regulations for Education Programs and Raleigh County Board of Education Policy D.3.30: Promotion, Retention and Graduation Requirements, students enrolled in the virtual program will receive a high school diploma from Raleigh County Schools.

5.3. Any virtual program course taken for high school credit, regardless of the grade during which the course was completed, will be entered onto the student transcript and included when calculating items such as, but not limited to, grade point average and class rank.

5.4. Virtual program students may take dual credit courses in accordance with RCBOE Policy D.3.30: Promotion, Retention, and Graduation Requirements.

5.5. Course grades will be assigned to a student's transcript in accordance with the Uniform Grading Scale set forth in WVBE Policy 2510.

VI. Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Students enrolled as a full-time student in the virtual pathway are eligible to participate in co-curricular and 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 Raleigh County Schools' policies and WVSSAC policies. (Students receiving homebound services are not eligible to participate in co-curricular or extra-curricular activities.)

VII. Removal from Virtual School

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional day program or removed from the virtual program, at any time, for the following reasons:

1. Should students not meet the requirements set forth in section 4.1, students will be exited from the district's virtual school platform at any time a student fails to meet the requirements set forth in this section. Upon exit, students will be returned to the traditional school day program.
2. Students unsuccessfully completing their virtual school coursework will be exited from the district's virtual school program at any time a student fails to meet the requirements set forth in this section. Upon exit, students will be returned to the traditional school day program.
3. Successful completion is defined as (1) earning a minimum D average and/or (2) having less than three unexcused absences.
4. Cheating, falsifying information, or plagiarizing.
5. Failure to maintain communication as directed.
6. School system policies, procedures, rules or regulations are violated, including rules governing the use of technology.
7. Refusal to complete all state testing and accountability requirements, as applicable.

VIII. Student Support

- 8.1. IEP committees will meet to determine the most appropriate least restrictive environment and the most reasonable accommodations.
- 8.2. ELL committees will meet to determine the most reasonable accommodations.
- 8.3. Virtual tutoring will be available four days per week (optional) and will vary based upon afternoon schedules.

IX. Counseling and Guidance Services

Raleigh County Schools will utilize personnel to meet 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.

X. 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 the 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. Students must let the administrator for virtual school know immediately if they need courses on the NCAA approval list.

XI. Severability

If any provision of this policy or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this policy.

WV Code Reference §18-5F-1 et. seq.

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