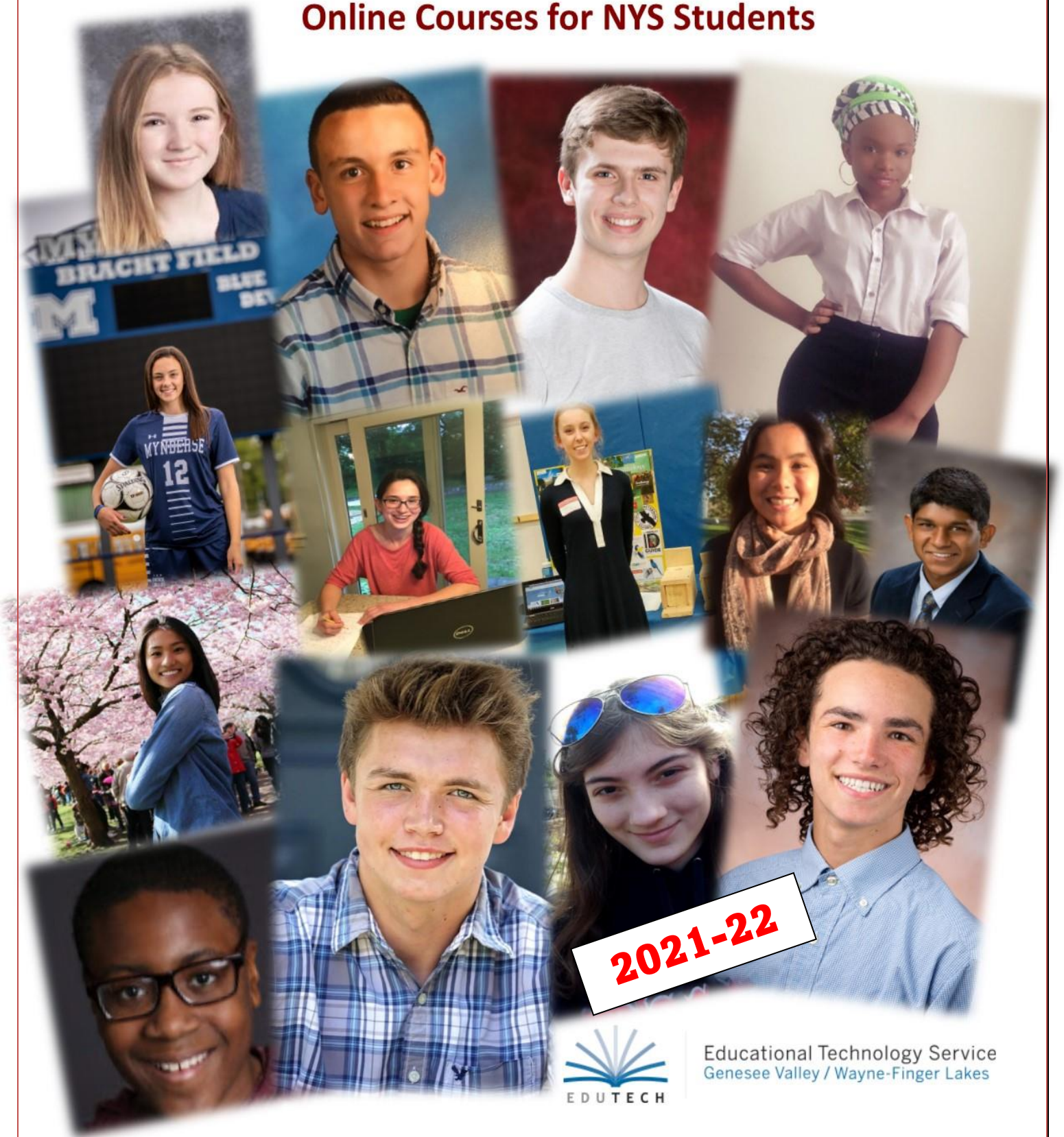# AccelerateU

Supporting K-12 Online Education in New York

Online Courses for NYS Students

2021-22

Educational Technology Service
Genesee Valley / Wayne-Finger Lakes

EDUTECH

AccelerateU Online Courses, 2021-22

AccelerateU is a service of Edutech, offering **300+ online courses for NYS secondary and middle school students**. Our courses are fully online, asynchronous, and available to students at any time. They are led by certified teachers who act as teachers of record.

AccelerateU meets NYSED Part 100.5 (Diploma Requirements) requirements for online courses.

We serve students of all abilities and situations –those acquiring credit, recovering credit, accelerating, traveling, homebound, medically fragile, experiencing special situations, and with IEPs and 504 plans.

Students have **20 weeks to complete** each semester course. During this time, students, counselors, and guardians receive **weekly progress reports** on progress.

Students can be enrolled at any time of the year. However, course requests received in June will either have a July 1 start date, or will be invoiced at full price, regardless of outcome.

List of Online Courses

Course availability changes often, so visit this site for current courses. Additionally, AccelerateU can add courses not currently offered, if given some lead time. For details, please contact us.

Student Feedback

- It was nice because you could move at your own pace.
- I loved learning online because I got to go at my own pace, and I did really well.
- It was good. I learned a lot and furthered my education on the topic.
- It was a great experience to get before going to college.
- It taught me time management.
- It was very fun, and a nice change of pace compared to sitting in a classroom for 40 minutes
- Really helpful, without my online courses I wouldn't be on the path that I am today.
- The teachers were so accommodating and flexible
- Very smooth. Easy to communicate and independent which I liked very much.
- I really liked my online course experience, and the knowledge I gained from these courses.
- It was very nice to be able to work at my own pace. Yet, when I needed help or had questions, they were answered relatively fast.

Educational Technology Service
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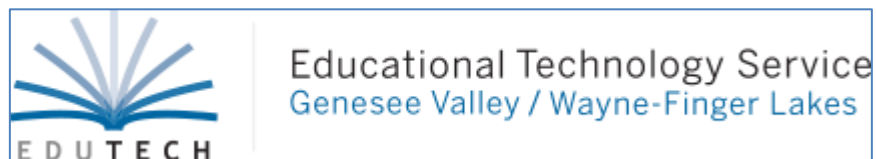
AccelerateU Online Course Costs, 2021-22

Each semester length (.5 credit) online course costs $754 per student.

Examples: Health is a semester (0.5 credit) course and costs $754.
          Spanish 1 is a two semester (1.0 credit) course and costs $1,508.

AccelerateU is an aidable service. School districts receive BOCES aid on the purchase of each course in the year following purchase. For example, the actual cost for a course for a 70% aid ratio district is $222.30.

Aid ratios: https://stateaid.nysed.gov/boces/pdf_docs/boces_rwada_report-sams1213.pdf

Early withdrawal fee: $50 for up to 4 weeks of enrollment.

Invoicing is done at the end of each semester.

Local BOCES fees may apply.

Aid Ratio	Course Cost	Actual Cost after aid received
0.80	$754	$150.80
0.75	$754	$188.50
0.70	$754	$226.20
0.65	$754	$263.90
0.60	$754	$301.60
0.50	$754	$377.00
0.40	$754	$452.40
0.30	$754	$527.80
0.20	$754	$603.20
0.10	$754	$678.60

Late enrollments, after May 3, 2022, will be invoiced at full cost of $754, regardless of completion/drop status.

For any district interested in servicing a full class, there will be a 10% coordination fee

For more information, contact us at (800) 722-5797 or helpdesk@edutech.org.

AccelerateU Site

AccelerateU Administrator----------------------------------Mike Morone, mike.morone@edutech.org
AccelerateU Staff---Ryan Arthurton, ryan.arthurton@edutech.org

Blended Learning Option, 2021-22

In addition to offering 300+ online courses using our teachers, AccelerateU offers a **blended learning option** – using a district teacher as the teacher of record. For more information, please contact Mike Morone at mike.morone@edutech.org.

Protecting Student Information

New York State Department of Education Ed Law 2d requires districts to protect students' personally identifiable information (PII). PII included information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity either directly or indirectly though linkages with other information, such as student name, parents' names, student address, student number, and linkable information.

AccelerateU staff members and teachers email district counselors and students constantly. We work diligently in reminding everyone to remove PII in all communications. For example, instead of using full names for students, we recommend using first name and last initial or just initials. If a counselor emails us and writes "John D. in Algebra 1…", we can figure out who that is.

As part of Ed Law 2d, we do NOT share student PII with most vendors. Those vendors who do need to have student PII are limited and have agreed in writing to protect PII, without sharing it with other organizations.

Disclosure avoidance procedures are efforts made to protect PII in aggregate reports and public documents. Some ways of doing so include:
- Suppression – removing data to prevent identification
- Blurring – reducing the precision of the disclosed data to minimize identification
- Perturbation – making small changes to the data to prevent identification

To learn more about disclosure avoidance practice, visit https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/.

For more information on Ed Law 2d or on AccelerateU's data protection practices, please contact Mike Morone at mike.morone@edutech.org.

AccelerateU Student Contract

Counselors: Please review this information with students, then indicate in their account that you have done so. This will serve as agreement by students to items listed below.

Name of person who discussed Contract with Student		District certifies that Contract was discussed and given to Student	Yes ▼

Students: By taking your online course, you agree to the following:

1. I will work in my course at least 3-5 times per week for at least 3 hours per week. Upper level and AP® courses require more hours per week.

2. I will communicate with my online teacher on a regular basis and quickly respond to all emails from teachers, school staff, and AccelerateU staff.

3. I understand that AccelerateU staff may contact me by texting or calling my cell phone.

4. I understand I will be withdrawn if I fail to log in for two consecutive weeks.

5. I will not copy anyone's work or violate copyright law. I will cite the works of others if I use Internet sources. I will not provide answers to anyone. I will not use online translation sites.

6. I will follow my school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and abide by its code of conduct, to keep the course free from discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying.

7. I will be respectful and polite in all communications.

8. I understand that all my online activity is stored and can be monitored by school officials.

The following will be enforced for students who do not abide by the above expectations:

- **First Offense**: The student will receive an email warning. Parents, guardians and school personnel will be notified of the infraction. For severe misconduct, the student will be removed from the course immediately, regardless of offense number.
- **Second Offense**: The student may be removed from the course.

For more information, contact:
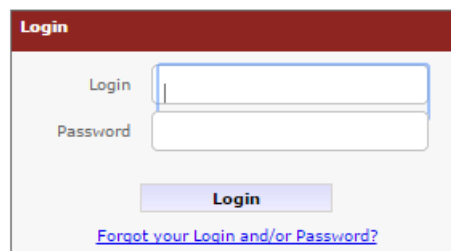- Mike Morone, mike.morone@edutech.org, (315) 332-7331

Enrolling Students

All AccelerateU enrollments are created online in our information system, which is called Genius SIS.

Each enrollment requires a confirmation that the Student Contract has been discussed with the student. If you need a copy, please contact us.
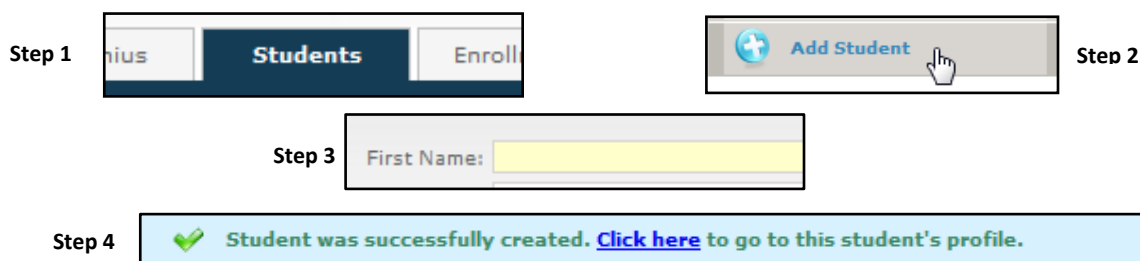
Genius SIS Site: http://accelerateu.org.

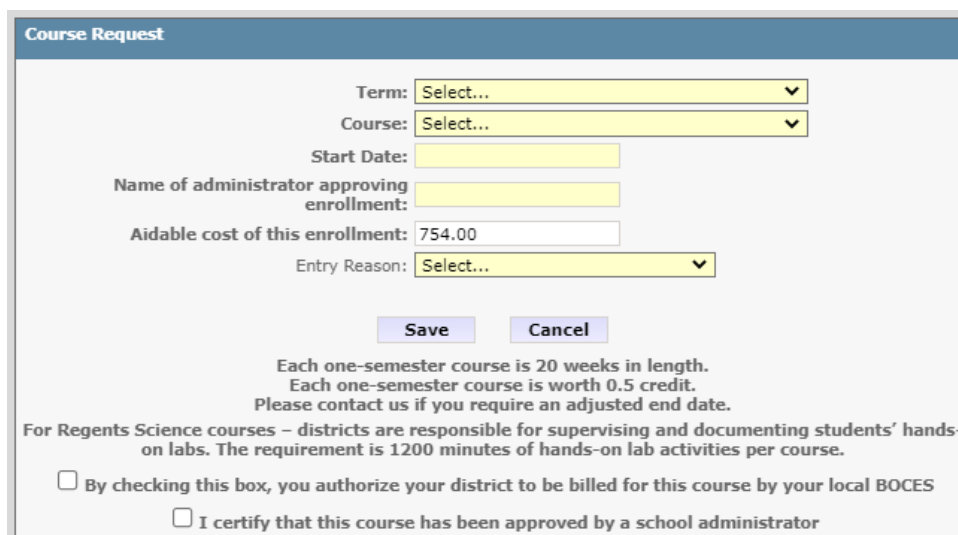Contact us for your login credentials.

Student Enrollment Instructions

Step 1: Go to the **Students** tab and click **Add Student**, filling out the information in yellow. Click **Save**. Then go to student's profile – by the "**Click here**" link, or by going to the **Students** tab and clicking on the student's name.


Step 2: Select **Requested Courses** and **Add a new course request**. Select the **Term**, select the **Course**, and select the **Start Date.** Choose **Entry Reason** and click on check boxes. **Save.**

AccelerateU staff will then enroll the student within 24 hours and send a **confirmation email** with complete instructions and contact information.

Step 3: In the student's account when necessary, upload any **IEP** or **504 document(s)** by clicking **External Files** and **Upload new file.**
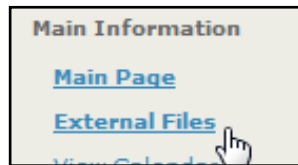
Contact Information

Administrator	Mike Morone, mike.morone@edutech.org
	(315) 332-7331 (office), (315) 359-8355 (cell)
Support	Ryan Arthurton, ryan.arthurton@edutech.org
Edutech Helpdesk	helpdesk@edutech.org (800) 722-5797, option 4
	Mon – Fri, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Eastern)

How Online Courses Work

From the date of enrollment, students have 20 weeks to complete their online course. Upon district request, we can grant students an additional 4 weeks.

Courses are online, available 24/7, wherever students have Internet access. Students work in their courses at their own pace, logging in at least 3-5 hours per week. Our certified teachers monitor progress, clarify concepts, offer help, answer questions, provide grades, and report progress to districts.

When students complete the course, they earn NYS credit, awarded by their districts. All courses are monitored by NYS certified teachers.

Technical Support

The district is responsible to make sure its devices can access the Internet and our sites. **AccelerateU** provides second-tier support. We encourage students to reach out with detailed information concerning technical issues.

Proctoring Requirement

Students must take midterm and final exams in a proctored setting, typically at school. All midterm and final exams will be password protected. Coaches will be provided with this password, and it should not be given to the student at any time, for any reason. This ensures test integrity for each course.

Plagiarism

It is important that students understand the severity of plagiarism. All of our courses have a mini-lesson and graded activities regarding plagiarism awareness. Students can ensure their work is not plagiarized by utilizing free plagiarism checkers such as www.quetext.com. We reserve the right to remove students after two occurrences of plagiarism.

Helping Students Succeed Online

The first two weeks: Ask them to share what they have done (specifically) in their course. Make sure they communicate regularly with their online teacher. Ask if they need technical help.

Throughout the rest of the course: Check in frequently to monitor progress. Review the weekly and periodic progress reports. You can log into our system to view progress at any time. Please meet with students who are not making progress. Feel free to email the online teacher whenever you have questions.

Our experience shows that students do NOT often ask for help in when they need it. Therefore, it is important to contract them regularly to ask how the course is going.

In supporting students, here are some good **conversation starters**:

- How much time have you worked on your course this week?
- What is your grade, and how far along in the course are you?
- When is your end date?
- Are you making adequate progress to finish by the end date?
- What conversations have you had with your online teacher?
- Have you been in touch with your counselor?
- Do you have any technical issues?

System Requirements

AccelerateU's online courses have video, sound, and interactive elements. Because technology changes frequently, we recommend running this computer system check regularly and following its recommendations on updating your system: https://browsercheck.qualys.com/

Students need access to a modern computer with an Internet connection and updated software plug-ins. A headset with microphone is required for world language and music courses to record voice assignments. All students will need email accounts for communication purposes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the course have a teacher?
Yes. All of our courses are led by NYS-certified teachers. They communicate with students on a regular basis, mostly by email. They respond to questions within 24 hours (school days only).

What do students do if they need help?
The district is responsible for technical support to ensure its computers can properly open **AccelerateU** courseware. **AccelerateU** provides second-tier support by contacting Mike Morone (mike.morone@edutech.org) or our helpdesk (800) 722-5797 (option 4) Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM (helpdesk@edutech.org).

For academic support, students contact their online teachers. **For other support,** students contact their school's advisor.

How can districts best support their online students?
Designate a local advisor - someone to meet with online students regularly and monitor progress. We encourage advisors to contact online teachers to discuss progress.

The more structure a district adds to the online experience, the more successful students will be. This structure can be in the form of scheduled time during the day for online work, an active advisor, peer group, teacher assistant, and possibly a tutor or teacher to assist, if necessary.

What hardware and software are needed to take an online course?
A modern computer or Chromebook with updated plug-ins and Internet access is required. Supported browsers include Google Chrome and Apple Safari.

Will students get high school credit?
Students successfully completing an online course will get credit for the course, awarded by the district.

When do courses start?
AccelerateU accepts course enrollments on a rolling basis all year long. Enrollments starting in June will be invoiced at full price, even if students withdraw. Students have 20 weeks to complete a course. With district approval, a four-week extension is available.

How quickly will the teacher respond to student questions?
Most of our online teachers also teach during the day. They mostly respond to students at night and complete grading over the weekends. In most cases, teachers will respond within 24 hours. Students are encouraged to consult other resources and move on in their course while waiting for answers.

What about hands-on science labs?
Some of our Science courses require hands-on labs, supervised by qualified staff. This must be arranged and implemented locally by the district.

How is test security handled?
Midterm and final exams should be taken in a proctored setting, usually at school. When ready to take an exam, students make arrangements with their advisor. The advisor will receive a password from AccelerateU staff to open the exam. This password should NOT be shared with the student.

What about IEP-related modifications?

If a student has modifications, please attached the IEP or 504 Plan to the student's account in our system. If there are local test modifications (such as read directions aloud), the district is responsible for these.

What about Regents and AP Exams?

Districts are responsible for administering, ordering, and paying for exams. Our courses have final exams, and at the districts' discretion, we can substitute an exam for a Regents exam.

Who is responsible for communicating with parents?

School counselors and district staff are responsible for communicating progress and grades to parents. Additionally, parents can log in to our system to check progress on their own.

How do we get students to be more involved with online learning?

Students should be encouraged to reach out two to three times per week, to check on progress, clarify learning, and discuss additional resources. We find many students are reluctant to initiate contact with their online teachers.

Here are some conversation starters for students:

- How am I doing so far?
- Am I on track to finish by the end date?
- What is my grade so far?
- Where shall I be in the course at this point?
- When are my assignments due?
- How much time should I spend in my course each week?
- What are the most important things to take away from this course?
- What additional resources would help me learn the content?
- How can I improve my grade?
- What suggestions do you have for me?
- What's the best way to reach you?
- When do you normally do grading?
- What other online courses should I consider taking?

Roles and Responsibilities

AccelerateU will:

- Provide access to online courses to students
- Provide access to student gradebooks if requested
- Provide and supervise NYS-certified teachers for the online courses
- Provide program awareness as requested by districts.
- Maintain records of student progress, evaluation, and time spent in courses
- Communicate applicable policies of participation, grading, and administration
- Provide second-tier technical support for course content.

The District will:

- Assign an advisor to help the student locally
- Enroll student and upload signed Student Contract
- Ensure student has completed an Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Upload IEP or 504 Plan documents
- Retain responsibility for services required in IEP or 504 Plans
- Ensure student has access to a computer with Internet access
- Provide first-tier technical support
- Provide a secure, proctored environment for student to take exams
- Make provisions for NYS Assessments and AP Exams, if applicable
- Arrange for hands-on Science labs, when necessary
- Grant credit to student's transcript upon course completion

Our Students Look Good on Paper

Megan

Course Title	Start Date	Exit Date	Status	Grade	Credit Recommended
English 11, semester 1 of 2	09/10/2018	02/28/2019	COMPLETED	74.5	0.50
Marine Science, semester 1 of 2 (requires microphone and audiotaping) R	09/10/2018	02/10/2019	COMPLETED	82.9	0.50
Spanish 1, semester 1 of 2	09/10/2018	02/14/2019	COMPLETED	85.3	0.50
United States History, semester 1 of 2	09/18/2018	02/16/2019	COMPLETED	75.9	0.50
Marine Science, semester 2 of 2 (requires microphone and audiotaping) R	02/25/2019	06/17/2019	COMPLETED	84.7	0.50
Spanish 1, semester 2 of 2 R	02/25/2019	06/17/2019	COMPLETED	75.3	0.50
United States History, semester 2 of 2	02/25/2019	06/20/2019	COMPLETED	80.3	0.50
English 11, semester 2 of 2	02/28/2019	06/23/2019	COMPLETED	89.8	0.50
College and Career Readiness (Mawi), one semester	09/10/2019	01/31/2020	COMPLETED	94.6	0.50
Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance R	09/10/2019	01/30/2020	COMPLETED	97.3	0.50
Economics, one semester	09/10/2019	02/03/2020	COMPLETED	88.5	0.50
English 12, semester 1 of 2 R	09/10/2019	02/05/2020	COMPLETED	85.6	0.50
Living Environment, semester 1 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	09/10/2019	01/31/2020	COMPLETED	91.1	0.50
English 12, semester 2 of 2 R	09/10/2019	06/16/2020			0.50
Health, one semester R	02/04/2020	06/12/2020			0.50
Living Environment, semester 2 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	02/04/2020	06/15/2020			0.50
Participation in Government, one semester R	02/04/2020				0.50
Painting Introduction, one semester (art supplies needed)	02/04/2020				0.50
Consumer Math, semester 1 of 2					
Earth Science, semester 1 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)					
Forestry and Natural Resources, one semester					
Robotics, one semester					

Conor

Course Title	Start Date	Exit Date	Status	Grade	Credit Recommended
Algebra 1, semester 1 of 2 (requires scientific calculator) R	10/15/2019	01/28/2020	COMPLETED	90	0.50
English 9, semester 1 of 2	10/15/2019	01/29/2020	COMPLETED	85.8	0.50
Global History and Geography 9, semester 1 of 2	10/15/2020	02/05/2020	COMPLETED	93	0.50
Algebra 1, semester 2 of 2 (requires scientific calculator) R	01/27/2020	04/27/2020	COMPLETED	91.9	0.50
English 9, semester 2 of 2	01/27/2020	05/06/2020	COMPLETED	90.5	0.50
Global History and Geography 9, semester 2 of 2	01/27/2020	04/29/2020	COMPLETED	80.5	0.50
..., semester 1 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	04/22/2020	06/23/2020	COMPLETED	90.7	0.50
...ment, one semester	04/22/2020	05/13/2020	COMPLETED	98.1	0.50
..., semester 2 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	09/09/2020	11/12/2020	COMPLETED	90.5	1.50
..., semester 1 of 2	09/15/2020	01/08/2021	COMPLETED	96.6	0.50
..., semester 2 of 2	09/15/2020	12/22/2020	COMPLETED	92	0.50
	01/04/2021	05/10/2021	COMPLETED	91.8	0.50
	01/04/2021	04/23/2021	COMPLETED	97.4	0.50
	02/23/2021	03/03/2021	COMPLETED	95	0.50

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Course Title	Start Date	Exit Date	Status	Grade	Credit Recommended
Algebra 1, semester 1 of 2 (requires scientific calculator) R	02/04/2019	06/20/2019	COMPLETED	93.1	0.50
English 10, semester 1 of 2	02/04/2019	06/15/2019	COMPLETED	89.3	0.50
Algebra 1, semester 2 of 2 (requires scientific calculator) R	09/10/2019	01/07/2020	COMPLETED	93.7	0.50
English 11, semester 1 of 2	09/10/2019	01/23/2020	COMPLETED	90.9	0.50
Living Environment, semester 1 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	09/10/2019	01/29/2020	COMPLETED	89.1	0.50
English 11, semester 2 of 2	01/27/2020	06/03/2020	COMPLETED	89	0.50
Living Environment, semester 2 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	01/31/2020	05/15/2020	COMPLETED	92.7	0.50
Earth Science, semester 1 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	05/16/2020	07/22/2020	COMPLETED	90.5	0.50
Geometry, semester 1 of 2 (requires scientific calculator) R	05/16/2020	07/31/2020	COMPLETED	87.4	0.50
Music Introduction, one semester	05/16/2020	06/08/2020	COMPLETED	86	0.50
Earth Science, semester 2 of 2 (requires hands-on labs)	09/15/2020	01/26/2021	COMPLETED	94.8	0.50
Economics, one semester	09/15/2020	02/11/2021	COMPLETED	89.4	0.50
Geometry, semester 2...	09/15/2020	01/19/2021	COMPLETED	94.3	0.50
	09/15/2020	01/22/2021	COMPLETED	84.8	0.50
	02/16/2021	03/06/2021	COMPLETED	96.5	0.50

MAKING SUCCESS POSSIBLE