

Section: Instructional Program
Title: Virtual Courses (*Best Educational Interest Determination*)
Number: IGCD – AP1
Adopted: January 10, 2019

A student or the student's parent/guardian must notify the student's principal or designee before the student may enroll in a district-sponsored virtual course or a Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP) virtual course through the district.

The principal or designee will provide information to the student and the student's parents/guardians about virtual instruction and/or other matters pertinent to the enrollment determination.

The principal or designee, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians and other relevant staff, such as the school counselor or the district's special education director, will determine whether there is good cause to refuse the student enrollment in the course. Students or parents/guardians who disagree with the principal's or designee's determination about a MOCAP course can appeal the decision to the Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). For all other virtual courses, students or parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee, and the superintendent's or designee's decision will be final. In accordance with federal law, if a student receives special education services, the student's individualized education program (IEP) team may determine that a virtual course is not appropriate for the student even if the course has otherwise been approved by the district.

If district staff determine that it is not in the best educational interest of a student to take a virtual course, that decision will be documented in writing and provided to the student and the parents/guardians.

Best Educational Interest Considerations

District staff should minimally consider the following when deciding whether a virtual course is in the best educational interest of a student but may consider other factors not listed.

District Course Availability

1. If the course is offered onsite by the district, are there extenuating circumstances that make it difficult or impossible for the student to take the onsite course offered by the district?
2. If the course is offered onsite by the district and the student is able to take that course, what are the reasons the student wants to take the virtual course?

Virtual Course Characteristics

1. Does the course meet or exceed district curriculum standards and graduation requirements?
2. Does the course align with the student's career goals and the student's individual career and academic plan (ICAP)?
3. If the course is for remediation, will it personalize instruction to the student's specific needs?
4. Is the district aware of any complaints or concerns regarding the quality of the course, and have those complaints or concerns been resolved?
5. Has the district had difficulty working with the course instructor or provider to ensure a student with disabilities receives the required accommodations or modifications?

Student Skills Necessary for Success in Virtual Courses

1. Has the student demonstrated time-management skills that indicate that the student is capable of submitting assignments and completing course requirements without reminders?
2. Has the student demonstrated persistence in overcoming obstacles and a willingness to seek assistance when needed?
3. Has the student demonstrated verbal or written communication skills that would allow the student to succeed in an environment where the instructor may not have sufficient nonverbal cues to indicate the student's level of understanding?
4. Does the student have the necessary computer or technical skills to succeed in a virtual course?

Other Relevant Factors

1. Does the student have adequate access to computers, Internet and other necessary technology resources to participate in a virtual course and complete assignments?
2. If the student has previously attempted a virtual course and struggled with or failed the class, have the issues that caused the student to struggle or fail been identified and addressed?

Park Hill School District, Platte County, MO