

Emanuel County Schools Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program Overview

Emanuel County Schools believes that in-person learning is best for students and we are looking forward to Emanuel County students and staff returning to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school term. We understand some students, in very limited circumstances, may have a documented health or medical need for virtual instruction. With that in mind, enrollment in Emanuel County Schools Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program will be **LIMITED** to students with documented COVID-19 related health/medical needs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

- Students will be enrolled with the base school.
- Classes will be offered in a 100% virtual format and match the five days per week in-person school schedule as much as possible.
- Students will be virtual for **ALL** classes.
- Students approved for the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program will be enrolled for the entire school year. However, the enrolling parent/guardian may contact their base school to request a return to in-person learning at the end of the semester.

Student Eligibility

Eligibility for the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program is **LIMITED** and will be based on a documented COVID-19 related health/medical need. **This eligibility is not extended to siblings or other students in a household.** Families will be required to submit a COVID-19 Health Eligibility Form that includes the healthcare provider's documentation of the student's health/medical diagnosis that requires accommodations for learning in a virtual environment.

Athletics and Activities

Students enrolled in the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program will not be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, athletics, or marching band.

Emanuel County School Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Online Learning Options

Georgia Virtual School www.gavirtualschool.org

Georgia Virtual School is a program of the Georgia Department of Education's Office of Technology Services. The program is SACS CASI accredited and operates in partnership with schools and parents to offer middle school and high school level courses across the state. Georgia Virtual School provides a teacher led, virtual classroom environment. Georgia Virtual School also equips students with an online media center and guidance center to support students throughout their online course experience.

Georgia Virtual School has over 100 course offerings in the core content areas, world languages, CTAE, electives, and a vast AP course selection. Your student's options and opportunities are not limited by the school district in which you live or the school they attend.

Edgenuity (when available)

Edgenuity course offerings will be subject to student enrollment and staffing availability.

Some specialized programs and courses will NOT be available in the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program. Fine and performing arts courses and programs will be limited in the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program. The following courses and programs will not be available in the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)
- Advanced Placement Courses (AP)
- Specialized Career and Technical and Agriculture Education (CTAE) courses
- Select Fine Arts courses
- Dual Enrollment courses

Note: Not all High School Courses are available in the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program

Georgia Cyber Academy (* full-time provider) <https://www.georgiacyber.org/>

The Georgia Cyber Academy uses the K¹² curriculum to offer Georgia students in grades K–12 an exceptional learning experience. With individualized learning approaches, the Georgia Cyber Academy and K¹² provide the tools kids need to succeed—in school and beyond.

Georgia Connections Academy (* full-time provider)

<http://www.connectionsacademy.com/georgia-school/home.aspx>

Students throughout Georgia now have the opportunity to thrive at Georgia Connections Academy Charter School (GACA), a tuition-free public cyber school. GACA gives students the flexibility to learn at home with a curriculum that meets rigorous state education standards. Our mission is to maximize academic achievement for students in grades K–12 throughout the state of Georgia who need an alternative to the traditional classroom. Georgia Connections Academy fulfills the intent of the Georgia legislature in the Charter School Law to “increase student achievement through academic and organizational innovation” by reaching students for whom a cutting-edge virtual approach provides the best pathway to school success.

Information on the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program enrollment process for the 2021-2022 School Year

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program enrollment is determined on the basis of a health/medical certification of need submitted by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, psychiatrist, or a licensed clinical psychologist.

Required Documentation

Families will be required to submit an **Emanuel County Schools COVID-19 Health Eligibility Form** that must include a healthcare provider's documentation of the student's health/medical diagnosis that require accommodations for learning in a virtual environment. This form must be fully completed, including parental permission to contact the treating healthcare provider, for the student to be considered for the Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program.

Application Timeline

The Virtual COVID-19 Hardship Program Enrollment Application window will close at the end of the business day, July 19, 2021.

Applications submitted after July 19 will be considered for the following reasons:

- Students new to Emanuel County Schools
- Families with delayed access to healthcare providers during the original application window
- If a student develops a new qualifying medical condition after the application deadline, they may submit an application at that time or may be served through the **Hospital Homebound Program**, if applicable.

Submitting the COVID-19 Health Eligibility Form

1. Parents/guardians may submit the COVID-19 Health Eligibility form from July 7 – July 19.
2. The form should be submitted it directly to Denise Warnock, Assistant Superintendent, Emanuel County Schools, 201 North Main Street, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401.
3. The parent/guardian will complete and sign the top portion of the form, and the medical provider will complete and sign the bottom portion. Hard copy forms may be requested from your school or ECS Central Office.
4. Receipt of the Virtual Enrollment COVID-19 Health Eligibility form will be documented in the Infinite Campus Student Information System (SIS).

Notification of Decision

When the health/medical review process is completed, the Assistant Superintendent will notify the enrolling parent of the approval or denial decision by email to the primary email address. The school of enrollment will also be notified.