

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in	Descriptor Term: Virtual Education Program	Descriptor Code: 4.212	Issued Date: 10/24/22
		Rescinds:	Issued:

General

In the Houston County School District, virtual instruction allows a course or series of courses to be offered in order to provide students a broader range of educational opportunities through the use of technology. Utilizing this program is temporary and shall not replace a student's regular instructional program.¹

Class size ratios for the virtual education program shall comply with the requirements as outlined in state law.² Virtual education programs³ may be made available to students for the following purposes:

1. Academic remediation, enrichment, or providing students access to a wider range of courses;
2. Continuity of educational service for students who are homebound;⁴
3. Continuity of educational service for students who are quarantining;⁵
4. Continuity of educational service for students enrolled in an alternative school;⁶ or
5. Continuity of educational service when the district utilizes remote instruction due to dangerous or extreme weather conditions, a serious outbreak of illness affecting or endangering students or staff, or during the administration of end of course examinations or other examinations as allowed per state law.⁷

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Students may be eligible to utilize a virtual education program if participating in one of the above educational opportunities. The following factors shall also be taken into consideration when determining eligibility:

1. Attendance;
2. Grades;
3. Technology survey; and
4. Approval from the appropriate program administrator.

ATTENDANCE

Student attendance in the virtual education program shall adhere to the general requirements of board policy 6.200 and any relevant administrative procedures.

Methods of confirming student attendance shall include two (2) or more of the following:

1. Students participating in a phone call with a teacher, with parent/guardian support as appropriate for the age of the student;

2. Students participating in synchronous virtual instruction;
3. Students completing work in a learning management system;
4. Students submitting work via hard-copy or virtual formats; or
5. Other methods the school deems appropriate.

REMOVAL FROM VIRTUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A student may be removed from the virtual education program or denied future enrollment in a virtual education program based on discontinued homebound or alternative school placement, disciplinary issues, attendance issues, or poor academic performance.

Before a student is removed based on poor academic performance, the following interventions shall occur:

1. Notification of parent/guardian;
2. One-on-one assessment conducted by the principal/designee regarding any learning needs and academic performance; and
3. Other supportive measures deemed appropriate.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.05(2)
2. TCA 49-1-104(h); State Board of Education Policy 3.206
3. TCA 49-16-101; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.05(2)(a)
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.10; TRR/MS 0520-01-09-.07
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-13-.01(1)(d)(1)
6. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.09; Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 960
7. Public Acts of 2022, Chapter No. 897

Cross References

- Emergency Closings 1.8011
Homebound Instruction 4.206
Credit Recovery 4.210
Alternative Education 6.319