

DISTANCE, ONLINE AND VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Code **IJNDAA** Issued **9/20**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for providing technology-delivered courses as an alternative means of instruction for students.

The district will utilize technology-delivered courses as part of its educational program to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction in the district. In addition to regular, classroom-based instruction, students in the district may earn credit through accredited distance, online or virtual learning courses and schools approved by the district's administration and the state-run South Carolina Virtual School Program.

District-approved courses

All technology-delivered programs and courses offered through the district will be consistent with state academic standards and instructional goals of the district, ensuring both the rigor of the course and the quality of instruction. The district will review instructional materials periodically to ensure they meet program standards.

The district will facilitate technology-delivered instruction as part of the regular K-12 instruction.

Middle School- It is expected that students taking courses for high school credit have been taught and have mastered the middle school level standards prior to taking the courses for high school credit. The number of high school credit permitted at the middle school or junior high school level must be determined by the local school district.

Students enrolled in middle school may receive up to three units of ninth grade or higher work for high school credit. These units are defined as: English I Honors, Algebra I Honors, and Career and Technology Education (CATE). Any exception would include high level of mastery of middle school standards as demonstrated by standardized assessments.

Grades nine through 12 (A ninth grader is considered a student promoted from eight grade and anticipates enrollment as a ninth grader for the upcoming school year.)

Students in grades nine through 12 may earn academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing technology-delivered courses offered through agencies/universities approved by the board.

A student may earn credit for a distance, online or virtual learning course under the following circumstances.

- The high school does not offer the course due to lack of certified personnel.
- The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
- The district has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
- The principal, with agreement from the student's parent/legal guardian and teachers, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment. The student along with parent or legal guardian will meet with a high school counselor to begin their Individual Graduation Plan (IGP).
- The student needs the course for credit recovery.
- The student needs the course to meet graduation requirements.

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- The student must be enrolled in a school in the district and, if applicable, will take the course during the regular school day at the school site.
- Enrollment in distance, online or virtual courses cannot result in the student exceeding the number of courses possible to be taken if such courses were not included in the students program of study.

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation.

Application for courses

Students applying for permission to take a technology-delivered course must do the following.

- Obtain the approval of the principal or his/her designee before enrolling in a technology-delivered course.
- Adhere to the district code of conduct to include rules of behavior, consequences for violations and signed student agreements, including the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement and Code of Conduct.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the district.

District review committee

The superintendent will establish a committee to review all technology-delivered courses prior to use by the district.

Evaluation

The district will evaluate the educational effectiveness of the technology-delivered courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state academic standards as well as student satisfaction. The district will use this evaluation to decide whether to grant credit for the course or to continue or discontinue the use of the technology-delivered course.

Students will have access to sufficient resources, including computer systems, print media and telecommunications to allow effective participation in technology-delivered courses.

The school will be responsible for providing applicable in-school supervision of students enrolled in technology-delivered courses.

The district will only use distance, online or virtual education courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K through eight with special permission.

State-Run Virtual School Program

Under this state-run program offering technology-driven courses, students enrolled in the district's high school may be awarded a maximum of three online initial credits in a school year and no more than 12 online initial credits throughout high school. The board, however, may grant a waiver to exceed this limit through an appeal to the state board of education.

The district will transcribe the student's final numeric grade to the student's permanent grade and transcript.

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Students enrolled in these courses will complete assignments, final exams and appropriate state assessments in a proctored environment.

Nothing in state law requires the district to provide either home computer equipment or Internet access to a student enrolling in this program.

This virtual education program will not award a South Carolina high school diploma.

Cf. IHBG, IHBH

Adopted 3/3/08; Revised 3/4/13, 10/7/13, 10/6/14, 10/7/19, 9/14/20

Legal references:

- A. South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-16-10, et. seq. - South Carolina Virtual School Program.