

PC CARES Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the PC CARES Academy?

Pendleton County Center for Academic Remote Education Services (PC CARES) Academy was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was designed to be a virtual learning option for our students during a time of uncertainty. In order to meet the needs of students who thrive in a virtual learning environment, Pendleton County Schools will offer a primarily self-guided digital learning environment where students would take courses through Edgenuity and/or other district approved platforms.

2. Will the PC CARES Academy be open to any PC student who wishes to enroll?

Any student who will be in grades 6-12 may apply for the PC CARES Academy but enrollment will be limited and not all who apply will be accepted. Applications will be scored by a committee at each school to determine admittance into the virtual learning program.

3. Once accepted into the PC CARES Academy, what is the length of time that the students must commit to that model of instruction?

Students can meet with school administration to discuss the return to in-person learning at the end of each quarter or grading period.

4. Will the PC CARES students have access to a teacher?

Students may not have regular access to a certified teacher. A Pendleton County Schools staff member will be assigned to monitor the progress of students in the PC CARES Academy; however, this person may only be accessible to the student through scheduled meeting times. PC CARES is meant to be a self-guided program.

5. What happens if my student is not successful in this program?

Enrollment in the PC CARES Academy is a privilege and to remain enrolled a student must maintain an average grade of "C" or higher in each course while participating and completing all assignments, activities and assessments in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in:

- A written warning stating the student has fallen below a "C" average in one or more courses and must improve his/her grade(s) while maintaining participation and turn in all required assignments, activities and/or assessments.
- If progress is not made within two weeks of the written warning, a student is then placed on probation.
- A student who is placed on probation must complete the following within two weeks of notice:
 - Attend the scheduled virtual and/or in-person support meeting(s)
 - Make adequate academic progress once placed on probation ("C" or higher in all courses.)

Failure to meet the probationary requirements above will result in the student returning to in-person learning.

6. Will the district provide internet access for PC CARES students?

No. The district will not provide internet access or a hotspot to students. Students participating in PC CARES MUST have access to reliable high-speed internet service (i.e., ability to stream a video without buffering on a device). If more than one student in a home will be enrolling in PC CARES, the internet service must be able to support all students being online at the same time.

7. Will the district provide devices students in the PC CARES Academy?

The students must have access to a reliable device with a webcam and microphone. The district will provide a device for those students who need one if the district user agreement is signed and followed.

8. Since the PC CARES Academy will be self-guided, will there be assignment deadlines?

Yes. A PC staff member will assign deadlines and monitor student progress.

9. Are there certain times when a PC CARES student must be on the computer?

Students may work on their assignments at anytime of the day unless the student is taking a dual credit course that requires they be online at a specified time. If a student has a scheduled meeting with a staff member, they will need to be online during that appointment time as well.

10. Are PC CARES students required to pay school fees?

Yes. Students will be charged the same school fees their school charges “in-person” students.

11. Will successful completion of the PC CARES curriculum ensure that students meet the state minimum grade level and graduation requirements?

Yes. Successful completion of online coursework will meet the minimum grade level and graduation requirements.

12. Will the online platform include all of the same electives and special course offerings that are available to in-person students?

Not necessarily. While we will make every effort to ensure the learning platform offers a robust and varied curriculum, electives and special course offerings may be more limited than they are in a traditional in-person school setting. High school students may be permitted to attend in-person courses that are not offered through the digital platform.

13. Will PC CARES students be permitted to take some of their courses in-person on the school campus?

High school students who are enrolled in PC CARES are expected to enroll full-time in the virtual setting. However, in certain instances, students may be granted permission to participate in an on-campus class if the class or program cannot be offered through virtual learning. Transportation of student is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

14. Will PC CARES students be allowed to participate in athletics, extracurricular, and/or afterschool programs and activities?

PC CARES students are allowed to participate in sports, extra-curricular activities, and after school events with their home school of enrollment if they choose to do so. If any fees are attached, a student is expected to pay those fees. Transportation of student is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

15. Will PC CARES students be required to participate in local, state and federal assessments?

Students would be required to participate in any state assessments which could require the student to come to school at an assigned time to take the assessment. Local assessments may be taken remotely when possible. **Failure to participate in local, state and/or federal assessments shall result in the student returning to in-person instruction.**

16. Will Special Ed. services be provided to students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) through PC CARES?

Yes, but like this year, there are some limitations. For example, specially designed instruction that is identified through the ARC in the IEP will be offered in the virtual environment to the extent possible.

17. Will PC CARES students in grades 11 and 12 who wish to participate in Vocational School be able to do so?

Yes. Students who are accepted into the vocational school program will be required to attend vocational school classes in-person. Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from the high school. A bus will transport students to vocational and back to the high school. Students may take their remaining courses through PC CARES.

18. Will PC CARES students be permitted to take dual credit courses?

Yes. Students may participate in dual credit courses IF the courses are offered online.

19. Will PC CARES students be permitted to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses?

PCHS AP courses will not be available online. Students who wish to take AP classes must take those courses on campus. Transportation to and from the high school will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

20. Will there be a meeting for PC CARES students and parents prior to the school year starting to discuss the program?

Yes. Each PC CARES student and their parent/guardian will be required to attend an in-person orientation meeting prior to the student's first day of school. Failure to attend the in-person orientation meeting will result in the student being ineligible for the PC CARES Academy. Information about the date, time and location of the meeting will be communicated at a later date.

21. Will PC CARES students be required to be compliant with all health exams and immunization requirements?

Yes.

22. Who should I contact if I have questions?

Questions can be directed to the school principal.