

ONLINE LEARNING

POLICY:

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors believes that a variety of learning options, including online courses and programs, are critical for 21st Century learners. The Board recognizes that the online learning environment provides students with unique opportunities to become self-disciplined learners with lifelong learning skills. Further, the Board believes that online learning provides tremendous opportunities for students to access curriculum and specialized courses in a flexible learning environment that might not otherwise be available.

Therefore, the Board supports a range of online learning opportunities that are equally accessible to all students in the school district. The Board directs the Superintendent to provide information to parents, students, and staff regarding online learning options and the guidelines for participation.

The Superintendent or designee will develop procedures to implement this policy. The procedures will include, but not be limited to, a description of student access to online learning courses/programs, student eligibility criteria, the types of online courses available to students, methods the District will use to support student success, payment of course fees and other costs, granting of course credit, and conditions under which no credit will be awarded.

Cross References:

Board Policy No. 6008: Instructional Materials and Methods
Board Policy No. 6700: Alternative Learning Experience Programs
Board Policy No. 6200: Graduation Requirements

Legal References:

RCW 28A.225 Compulsory School Attendance and Admission
RCW 28A.250 Online Learning
RCW 28A.230.090 High School graduation requirements or equivalencies
Reevaluation of graduation requirements – Review and authorization of proposed changes – Credit for courses taken before attending high school – Postsecondary credit equivalencies.

RCW 28A.320.035 Contracting out – Board’s powers and duties – Goods and services

RCW 28A.150.262 Defining full-time equivalent student – Students receiving instruction through alternative learning experience online programs – Requirements – Rules

RCW 28A.150.220 Basic Education – Minimum instructional requirements – Program accessibility – Rules (Effective September 1, 2011)

WAC 180-51 High School Graduation Requirements

WAC 392-121-182 Alternative learning experience requirements

WAC 392-121-188 Instruction provided under contract

WAC 392-410-310 Equivalency course of study – Credit for correspondence courses, electronically mediated courses, and college courses

WAC 392-502 Online Learning

Management Resources:

Policy News, December 2009, Online Learning Policy Required

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PROCEDURES:

A. Definitions

Online Courses:

An “online course” is one in which more than half of the content is delivered online and more than half of the instruction is delivered online by a teacher from a different location than that of the student.

Online School Program:

“Online school program” is delivered by a school district or cooperative of school districts, and provides an online, comprehensive and sequential program of courses or grade-level coursework and instruction in which more than half of the program is delivered online and more than half of the instruction is delivered online by a teacher from a different location than that of the student.

Online Learning Support Team:

District/school staff (teacher, counselor, registrar, building administrator) who will provide assistance to the student in accessing courses, understanding coursework and maintaining successful progress in the course.

B. Student Access to Online Courses and Online School Programs

The District may facilitate access to one or more of the following types of online learning opportunities:

1. Online courses:
 - a. District-created and taught online courses;
 - b. District-taught online courses created by a third-party contracted provider; and
 - c. OSPI-approved online courses created and taught by third-party course providers.

2. Online school programs:
 - a. District-created and -taught online school programs;
 - b. District-sponsored programs created and taught by third-party course providers;
 - c. District-sponsored programs created by third-party course providers and taught by district teachers; and
 - d. Out-of-district online school programs accessed through an interdistrict transfer.

C. Types of Online Courses Available

The District may facilitate access to one or more of the following types of online courses:

1. Credit recovery courses allowing students to make up failed credits needed for graduation;
2. Advanced Placement courses;
3. Foreign language courses;
4. Courses which may already be offered in the student's school but are inaccessible to the student due to scheduling or other factors;
5. Courses not available at the student's school that meet four-year college entrance requirements;
6. Elective and Career and Technical courses;
7. Standard-level courses meeting high school graduation requirements;
8. Grade level coursework for K-8; and/or
9. A course that meets the criteria for district use of a non-approved course.

D. Student Eligibility Criteria

The District will facilitate access to online learning courses and programs for students enrolled in grades K-12. Students taking an online course or participating in a district-created online school program must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Have completed any required prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm that he/she possesses the academic level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment;
2. Comply with existing district policies for registering/enrolling in a course or district program.
3. Students interested in attending an online school program in another district must follow the interdistrict transfer procedures in LSSD Policy No. 5020.5 prior to entering that program.

E. Supporting Student Success

When enrolled in a Lake Stevens School District sponsored class or program, the District will provide the following support to students to help ensure a successful online learning experience:

1. All online students will receive assistance from the local online learning support team;
2. The registrar and/or counselor will advise students in selecting and registering for online learning options to which the District facilitates access;
3. The local advisor will meet regularly with online students to ensure they are connecting to the online coursework and the online students are making satisfactory progress in their online coursework;
4. The District will offer a dedicated class period during the school day in which the student may connect to an online course and to his/her local advisor; and
5. The District will offer access to online computers during the school day.

F. Costs/Fees

1. Courses offered to students for which the District claims state education funding or that are included as part of the legally-required annual average total instructional hour offering of one thousand (1,000) hours will be paid for by the District. Students/families may be responsible for fees as specified by the district fee schedule.
2. Courses offered to students for which the District claims no state education funding and that are not included as part of the legally-required annual average total instructional hour offering of one thousand (1,000) hours will be paid for by the student/family. Students/families may also be responsible for fees as specified by the district fee schedule.

G. Granting of High School Credit for Online Courses

1. Credit for online courses will be granted in the same manner as other course offerings in the district.
2. Currently enrolled students must notify the District prior to enrolling in an online course provided outside of the district. The student will be informed, in writing, whether or not the course is eligible for academic credit from the District.
3. For students transferring credit from online courses or programs taken while enrolled outside of the district, credit will be granted according to the district transfer credit policy, LSSD Policy No. 6200.

4. For eligible courses, if course credit is earned, the course will be recorded on the transcript the standardized identifier for online courses provided in the Comprehensive Education Data Research System (CEDARS).
5. Prior to enrollment, students and/or parents will be informed in writing whether a course is eligible for academic credit.

H. Information to Students and Parents or Guardians

The District will use a variety of methods to provide information to parents/guardians and students regarding online learning opportunities.

Information will be provided through the district web page, counseling office brochures, newsletters, the student handbook and other appropriate district communication resources.

Information provided will include descriptions of online courses or online school programs, enrollment information, potential fees, a description of credits awarded for courses, student eligibility requirements, and methods the District will use to support student success.

I. Criteria for District Use of Non-OSPI Approved Online Courses

1. The District may offer courses to students from providers not on the OSPI approved list only after ensuring that they meet the criteria for district use of nonapproved courses as posted on the OSPI Website.
2. The District will ensure proper documentation when using nonapproved online courses.

J. Student Responsibilities

1. Adhere to the District's code of conduct for academic integrity.
2. Comply with course/program participation and completion requirements.
3. Maintain high academic involvement.
4. Notify the District if participation in an online course/program ceases or changes.
5. Maintain agreed-upon levels and kinds of communication with the local advisor throughout the term of the online course.
6. Participate in an online course/program orientation.

K. Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

1. Parents or guardians are responsible for costs/fees as outlined in Section F.
2. Parents or guardians are responsible for seeking appropriate technology – per District recommendations – for student participation in coursework outside of the school day or designated online learning period.

L. District Responsibilities:

1. Inform parents/guardians prior to student enrollment in any online course or program.
2. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of the online courses and programs that are available to them.
3. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of the online course/online school program prerequisites, technology requirements, course outlines, syllabi and possible fees.
4. Provide online students who remain enrolled in the district and who participate in the online course or program during the school day, with computing hardware and connectivity required for participation in the online course or online school program.
5. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of how to seek and access technology resources and technological requirements beyond the school day.
6. Provide online students with an online learning support team.
7. Ensure communication between the student's local advisor and parent/guardian.
8. Ensure online courses are appropriately identified with CEDARS coding.
9. The District will inform students and their parent/guardian of rescheduling options or grade impacts in the event a student withdraws from an online course or online school program prior to completion.