

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Definitions

- *Academic pacing guide* means a document created or adopted by the school district which outlines the amount of course content covered during each portion of the school year.
- *Educational equity* means every student has access to the resources and educational rigor they need at the right moment in their education regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, family background, or family income.
- *Virtual instruction* means teaching and learning that takes place through digital means and can be synchronous or asynchronous.
- *Virtual school* means an educational institution operated by a school district in this state which offers virtual instruction. Virtual schools generally do not maintain a physical facility, and students and teachers are geographically remote from one another.
- *Military-connected student* means a student impacted by a military-directed reassignment or mid-year relocation.

Virtual School Requirements

The District endorses the offering of full-time virtual instruction through Yellowstone Virtual Academy for students in grades K-8 in accordance with state law and administrative rules.

The Yellowstone Virtual Academy is an alternative academic environment for students who desire a different approach to the traditional school setting. The courses offered in the virtual school shall align with the District's approved curriculum and standards for learning.

The Board prioritizes educational equity by identifying and removing institutional barriers and other factors that obstruct access and opportunity to a quality, virtual education. Students regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender identify, national origin, ancestry, disability, or age, will have an opportunity to enroll in the Yellowstone Virtual Academy.

The Board acknowledges that online learning is not for everyone. The District, in consultation with the parent/guardian and student, shall assess student readiness to determine if virtual instruction is right for them. As with students enrolled in traditional schools, the 504 or IEP team shall have decision-making authority for students with disabilities enrolled in the virtual school.

Students in grades K-8 may transfer into or out of the virtual school prior to the start of the school year or at the semester breaks.

Students enrolled in the Yellowstone Virtual Academy must maintain expected progress in their courses for their age, grade, and ability level. Expectations will be communicated to the students and parent(s)/guardian(s) by the teacher at the beginning of the course. Students unable to meet the expected progress in their courses may be required to return to in-person instruction.

REQUIRED

Descriptor Code: ABAD

Students participating in extracurricular and/or cocurricular activities must adhere to district policies, academic pacing guides, and grade requirements to maintain extracurricular eligibility.

Virtual students shall participate in all state and district-wide assessments in the same manner as students enrolled in traditional instruction.

Student attendance will be recorded on a weekly basis. In addition, the District shall verify the attendance of students participating in virtual instruction by monitoring the student's progress on academic pacing guides set forth in board regulations.

In accordance with state law, non-district resident students shall be allowed to open-enroll into the Yellowstone Virtual Academy. A cost-sharing agreement with a student's resident district may be used to allow non-resident enrollment in the virtual school.

Teachers employed with the Yellowstone Virtual Academy shall receive professional development specific to virtual learning.

Additional information for the Yellowstone Virtual Academy can be found in board regulation.

End of Yellowstone Policy ABAD Adopted: 10/16/2023