

THE ATHENS RENAISSANCE SCHOOL, A NON-TRADITIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION FRAMEWORK AND THE VIRTUAL PROGRAM OPTIONS

The Athens City School System offers a non-traditional public education provided through the Athens Renaissance School. Courses are developed and taught by highly qualified, certified teachers or facilitated through high-quality online curriculum aligned to the ALSDE-CCRS.

SCOPE AND DELIVERY

Instruction at the Athens Renaissance School is delivered through *traditional face-to-face instruction, non-traditional virtual facilitation, or a blended combination of the two*. The system's learning management system (LMS) and other innovative instructional technologies house our course curriculum that allows teachers to facilitate teaching and learning. Each student and their parent(s) develop a customized personal education plan with an administrator and/or counselor that allows teachers to utilize the system's instructional policies and procedures, Alabama's College and Career Standards, best practice frameworks, state assessments and PLAN 2020 when developing and building lessons and facilitating classes. All Athens Renaissance School courses are accredited and approved by the Athens City Board of Education.

ELGIBILITY CRITERIA

Full Time Enrollment

Athens Renaissance School courses and programs are free for enrolled full-time students in Grades K-12 meeting the residency requirements of Policy JBC.

Athens Renaissance School courses and programs are also available for enrolled full-time, non-resident K-12 students who meet Policy JBCB eligibility requirements and Athens City Schools enrollment procedures (except that the Superintendent is authorized to (a) allow such students to enroll and participate without bringing such enrollments to the board for approval, and (b) set a fee schedule for such students that is different from the free set out in Policy JBCB, including a schedule where there is no fee). Students who enroll through Policy JBCB for non-resident students are offered courses based on availability.

Athens Renaissance School full-time students shall not be enrolled at the same time in another public or non-public K-12 school.

Students who choose to take courses above and beyond a full course load may be required to pay tuition for the additional courses if they plan to graduate early. A student is considered "full-time" where that student is enrolled and participating in a number of courses sufficient for matriculation from grade to grade, and in the core of grades 9-12, to be on the track for high school graduation in four years.

Guest Enrollment

Students (both resident and non-resident) may also enroll in the Athens Renaissance School on a guest-enrollment basis. Such students may take one or more courses from the Athens Renaissance School, but Athens City Schools does not assume any responsibility with respect to 'guest enrollment students' state accountability data, state reporting information, graduation requirements, state testing, or other matters associated with traditional enrollment in the Athens City school system. Guest enrollment students must pay a fee relative to the number of courses they take. The Superintendent is authorized to admit such guest enrollees upon such terms and conditions (including an appropriate fee) as he deems reasonable and necessary. Guest enrollment students are offered courses based on availability.

The Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts with other public school systems to facilitate and provide for guest enrollments at the Athens Renaissance School, upon terms that are consistent with the policy. The Superintendent must provide a Board with notice of such contracts on or before the next regular meeting of the Board. Any such contract that (i) would commit the Board for a period in excess of one school year, or (ii) is reasonably expected to involve expenditures by the Board in excess for \$15,000.00, must be approved by the Board upon the Superintendent's recommendation.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND TESTING PROTOCOL

The Athens Renaissance School is governed by the policies and procedures of Athens City Schools. All policies adopted by the Athens City Board of Education and all applicable administrative code and laws adopted by the State Board of Education and Alabama Legislature are applicable, except to the extent that the same are not applicable to a virtual education program or have been otherwise waived pursuant to the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. All policies and procedures adopted by the Athens City Board of Education apply to the Athens Renaissance School programs, unless expressly waived by this policy or by the Superintendent upon his finding that such policies or procedures are incompatible with the nontraditional and virtual format of the Athens Renaissance School.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Athens Renaissance School monitors student attendance in accordance with all applicable statutes set by the state of Alabama, as well as reports all truant students to the appropriate legal authorities. Parent(s)/guardian(s) with legal responsibility for a child between the age of six (6) and seventeen (17) years of age are responsible for the student's attendance in a public school unless otherwise exempt by law. In the event that a Renaissance student is truant, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are subject to all penalties provided for under Alabama's Compulsory School Attendance Law.

Renaissance School attendance is based upon one of two methods or a combination of both. Traditional attendance is measured by the physical presence of the student at the Athens Renaissance School facility. Non-traditional attendance is measured through the completion of

lessons/assignments consistent with the student's customized learning plan, and developed for students in every course that includes the due dates for each assignment. Students are required to remain on-pace and complete all assignments with a minimum score of 70%, to be considered present and attending, as well as to progress in the course. Simply logging into the learning management system (LMS) or course is not considered attending for purposes of Alabama's Compulsory School Attendance Law.

The Superintendent is authorized to issue rules and regulations to implement this policy and to ensure the efficient and effective operations of our innovative programs and the ultimate mastery and achievement of those students enrolled while also securing academic integrity.

TRANSPORATAION

Transportation to and from Athens Renaissance School classes, program, or activities shall be the responsibility of the students, parent(s) and or guardians(s), except as otherwise specifically provided.

Authority/References

Ala. Code § 16-11-9 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-46A-1, *et seq.* (1975); Ala. Code § 16-6D-6 (1975). ADOPTED: June 11, 2015; REVISED: August 18, 2016; REVISED: September 13, 2018