

Comparison of Online Learning Programs for Grades 9-12

Online learning should always be discussed with your school counselor BEFORE enrolling in ANY program. The following information is provided to help students and parents choose the program that best fits their needs. **This chart is NOT a substitute for meeting with your counselor.**

	Utah Students Connect Park City School District's online option.	Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP) Includes Utah Online School, Utah Virtual Academy, Mountain Heights Academy, Canyons Online, etc.	Other Online/Independent Study Providers Example: We'll use BYU Independent Study for the purposes of this comparison sheet.
Website	Go to https://www.utahstudentsconnect.org for UTSC program information and resources.	Go to https://www.schools.utah.gov/edonline for SOEP program information and current providers.	Go to the provider's website for information. (BYU's website is https://is.byu.edu/hs)
How To Enroll	Sign up for courses through your school counselor. Note that UTSC is not a separate school, it is a program within our school.	SOEP has multiple providers. See the provider's website for enrollment instructions. Make sure you enroll using the SOEP/SEATS option.	You enroll directly with the provider. (For BYU, register on their website and give them our school code 450290 when you register.)
Maximum Credit Enrollment Per School Year	No limit. Courses can be in place of, or in addition to, the student's in-school schedule.	Up to 6 credits per year. SOEP courses REPLACE and do not supplement courses taken at the student's school. For each SOEP credit taken, the equivalent credit amount is removed from the student's class schedule for a Release period. For summer courses, the equivalent is removed from the student's class schedule the next school year.	No limit. Courses can be in place of, or in addition to, the student's in-school schedule.
WPU (state funding per student)	State funding stays in the Park City School District	State funding is transferred from the Park City School District to the online provider.	n/a
Your Tax Dollars	Stay in the Park City School District	Go to the online provider (taken away from PCSD)	n/a
Courses Offered	Core courses and a few electives. Ask your counselor or refer to the UTSC Student & Parent Manual for a list of courses offered.	Course offerings are provider-specific. Make sure their courses meet our specific graduation requirements. Ask your counselor if you have questions.	Course offerings are provider-specific. Make sure their courses meet our specific graduation requirements. Ask your counselor if you have questions.
Teacher Qualifications	Highly qualified Utah licensed teachers employed by the Cache, Jordan, Murray, Nebo, Park City, and Salt Lake school districts.	Teachers are employed by or contracted by the provider.	Teachers are employed by or contracted by the provider.
Term Calendar and Deadlines	Program functions on a traditional school-year and term calendar. There are deadlines for course completion, enrollment, withdrawal, and in-person final exams. Courses are offered by quarter.	Most providers function on a traditional school-year and term calendar. Courses may be offered by year, semester, or quarter. Check with each individual provider for their dates and deadlines.	Check with the provider. (BYU is open-entry, open-exit, where students can work at their own pace, but there may be a limit to how long a student has to complete a course.)
Cost/Fees	No cost during the school year.	No cost during the school year.	Check with the provider. (BYU fees vary by course, \$195-\$295 per .5 credit)
Offers Summer Courses	Yes. Summer courses are \$46.50 per quarter credit.	Check with the provider for options and possible fees.	Check with the provider.
Credit Recovery (Remediation)	Yes. Credit recovery courses are \$46.50 per quarter credit.	Check with the provider for options and possible fees. Check with your counselor to make sure the course will meet our remediation requirements.	Check with the provider. Check with your counselor to make sure the course will meet our remediation requirements.

How Grades/Credits Are Reported to Us	UTSC reports grades and earned credits directly to the PCHS Registrar who will enter them on our school's transcript under our school's name. (UTSC is not a separate school.)	The provider must send an official transcript directly to the student's school of record. It is the student/parent's responsibility to follow up with the provider to make sure that happens.	The student/parent must request an official transcript be sent directly to the student's school. (BYU sends an official transcript to us if you give them our school code 450290 when you register.)
NCAA (for college athlete eligibility)	Core courses are NCAA-approved	Core courses will likely be NCAA-approved, but you should confirm by researching each provider individually.	Contact the provider to find out if their courses are NCAA-approved. (BYU core courses are NCAA approved.)

All information is subject to change.

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Important Things to Consider!

Students and their parents are responsible for all decisions regarding the selection and completion of online/independent study courses (also called "outside credits").

- Students should complete their courses in a timely manner and follow all deadlines established by the provider. There should be no expectation that extensions will be allowed.
- Students should follow up and make sure that the completed outside credits are applied to their high school transcript (grades 9-12).
- Students should contact the online/independent study provider or teacher directly with questions or concerns. Make sure you understand all of their enrollment requirements, fees, deadlines, course materials, and instructions before attempting an online/independent study course. Good recordkeeping is essential.
- Students interested in being college athletes should check if the provider is NCAA approved via NCAA.org. The NCAA approves high school courses for use in establishing the initial-eligibility certification status of student athletes. This is especially important for core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, etc.).
- Credits from non-accredited providers or schools will not be accepted. When in doubt, verify with Cognia.org or consult with your school Counselor or Registrar.
- High school credit courses completed prior to the student's 9th grade year will not appear on the student's high school transcript. Eighth graders should not complete any high school credit courses until they are officially in the 9th grade, which is the day after the last day of their 8th grade school year.
- **Official transcripts of completed outside credits must be sent directly to our school from the school awarding the credit.** Official transcripts should be mailed or sent via an encrypted online document service. Transcripts will NOT be accepted from students or parents, unless delivered in an unopened envelope that was signed and sealed by the provider.
- Credits from other accredited schools are transcribed onto the student's high school transcript under the year and term in which they were completed and with the grade or percent value as awarded by the other school. Transfer grades are calculated into the student's cumulative GPA using our grade point values. GPA weight is only added for qualifying AP grades.

Exceptions Specific to the Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP)

An eligible student may exceed a full course load during a regular school year (more than 8 credits) if the student's plan for college and career readiness indicates that the student intends to complete high school graduation requirements and exit high school before the rest of the student's high school cohort, and the student's schedule demonstrates progress toward early graduation. Also, for purposes of high school graduation, Park City School District shall recognize high school credits earned prior to 9th grade through participation in the Statewide Online Education Program, provided that the student has declared an intention to graduate early, and the high school courses are not used to replace middle school educational requirements.

To be eligible for either of these exceptions, the student must submit a Declaration of Intent to Graduate Early Form with their Counselor as part of their College and Career Readiness Plan. (Park City School District Policy 9080 and UT Admin Code Rules R277-700 and R277-726)

BEFORE you make the decision to declare your intent to graduate early, please consider:

- Full-time Park City School District students have the opportunity to earn 8 credits toward graduation each year of grades 9 through 12, for a potential grand total of 32 credits. A PCHS diploma required 28 credits, and with two diploma options available, Park City High School students have had no trouble completing graduation requirements for 11th grade early graduation without needing to take more than a full course load or earn credits prior to 9th grade.
- Students are officially considered 9th graders on the day after the last day of school of their 8th-grade year. As such, if a student begins a high school credit course while in 8th grade, but does not complete it (earn credit as recorded on an official school transcript) prior to that date, the credit can be counted on the student's 9th grade transcript without a declaration of intent to graduate early.
- Most colleges and universities do not need to see the completion of an introductory-level course if a higher-level course in the series is included on the high school transcript in grades 9 through 12. For example, it is assumed that the student successfully completed Secondary Math 1 (say, in 8th grade) before advancing to and completing Secondary Math 2 in 9th grade as noted on their high school transcript. The same would apply to world languages, where it is assumed that Spanish 1 would be passed before moving on to Spanish 2.