

Virtual Instruction

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 Academy (a.k.a. virtual school(s))* means an educational institution operated by a school district in North Dakota which offers virtual instruction. Virtual schools generally do not maintain a physical facility, and students and teachers are geographically remote from one another.

Virtual School Requirements

Fargo Public Schools endorses the offering of full-time virtual instruction through the Fargo Public Schools Virtual Academy (K-8 and 9-12) in accordance with state law and administrative rules.

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

The Fargo Public Schools 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.

Students may transfer into or out of the Virtual Academy prior to the start of the school year or at the semester/quarter (secondary) or during another time with a recommendation from the student's principal of the building they will be transferring from-and approval by the Virtual Academy and Associate Superintendent.

Students enrolled in the Fargo Public Schools Virtual Academy must maintain expected progress in their courses for their age, grade, and ability level. Expectations will be communicated to students and parent(s)/guardian(s) by the Virtual Academy 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.

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 appropriate 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.

In accordance with state law, non-district North Dakota resident students shall be allowed to open-enroll into the Fargo Public Schools Virtual Academy by the last workday in February for the following school year.

Teachers employed with the Fargo Public Schools Virtual Academy shall receive professional development to support their instructional modality.

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