

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

The Athens City School System offers non-traditional public education provided through the Athens Renaissance School and the Renaissance Virtual School, both of which are independent schools and cost centers within the Athens City School System. Courses at these schools are developed and taught by highly qualified, certified teachers of Athens City Schools, or facilitated through high-quality online courses accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency that is verified by the Alabama State Department of Education.

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 course curriculum that allows teachers to facilitate teaching and learning. All Athens Renaissance School courses must be accredited and approved by the Athens City Board of Education.

Instruction at the Renaissance Virtual School is delivered through *non-traditional virtual facilitation, with optional in-person support at various learning centers in Athens, Alabama*. The system's learning management system (LMS) and other innovative instructional technologies house course curriculum that allows teachers to facilitate teaching and learning. All Renaissance Virtual School courses must be accredited and approved by the Athens City Board of Education.

These schools offer students an online pathway for earning a high school diploma, as required by Alabama law.

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 (i.e., reside within the Athens City Schools district). Renaissance Virtual School courses and programs are free for enrolled full-time students in Grades 4-12 meeting the residency requirements of Policy JBC.

Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual School courses and programs are also available for enrolled full-time, non-resident students (Grades K-12 for Athens Renaissance School, and Grades 4-12 for Renaissance Virtual School) 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, and such students are subject to the rules and guidelines of Policy JBCB.

Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual School full-time students shall not, in any case whatsoever, be enrolled at the same time in another public or non-public K-12 school. All students must annually certify that they are in compliance with this rule, and any student violating this rule is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion. Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual School shall not be a part of any agreement or joint endeavor with any public or non-public school outside of the Athens City Schools system related to virtual course offerings, nor shall they utilize any facilities of the same with respect to virtual course offerings.

A student is considered a “full-time” student 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.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND TESTING PROTOCOL

The Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual School are 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. All policies and procedures adopted by the Athens City Board of Education apply to the Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual School programs, unless expressly waived by this policy or by the Superintendent upon his/her finding that such policies or procedures are incompatible with the nontraditional and virtual format of the Athens Renaissance School and/or Renaissance Virtual School.

Full-time students enrolled in Athens Renaissance School or Renaissance Virtual School shall participate in all state testing and accountability requirements.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual 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.

Athens Renaissance School and Renaissance Virtual 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, and developed for students in every course that

includes the due dates for each assignment. *Students are required to remain on-pace, 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.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from Athens Renaissance School classes, program, or activities (or any in-person activities of the Renaissance Virtual School) 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).
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