



Gulfport Virtual Academy

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

2023-2024

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Gulfport School District will offer a virtual learning program for students in grades K-10 in accordance with State Board Policy 56.2. For the virtual learning program, all MDE process standards (i.e., student-teacher ratios, instructional practices, planning time, compulsory attendance, teacher evaluations, etc.) will be held to the same standards as in-person learning. This document provides an overview of the virtual learning program and outlines the roles and responsibilities of virtual students and their parents/guardians for the 2023-2024 school year.

CRITERIA TO PARTICIPATE

Applicants' historical records (academic, behavior, attendance) will be reviewed to determine if virtual learning may be a good option for the student. The student and parent will also be asked to participate in an interview to assess if the home environment supports virtual learning. The Gulfport School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the provision of educational programs and services. For students that have a current IEP, LSP, or 504, a committee will need to meet and recommend virtual as a placement and determine how services will be rendered in a virtual setting.

DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT FEE

Each Gulfport Virtual Academy student will be required to pay a fee of \$30 to offset the cost of the resources used for distance learning.

HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Parents must provide an adequate home learning environment that is free from distraction. While video conferencing, students will be required to have their cameras on at the discretion of the teacher. Students should have an appropriate background for video conferencing at all times. Parent supervision is required for students in grades K-6.

ATTENDANCE

For a virtual student to be counted as present, the student must be engaged in learning for a minimum of 330 minutes daily. Students will log in to a video conferencing platform at each of the required log in times and the teacher will take roll. The teacher(s) will monitor completion of synchronous and asynchronous work as proof of attendance. Students are considered tardy if they are not logged in to the video conferencing platform by 7:50 am. For a student to check-in/check-out, the parent will need to call The Learning Center at (228) 897-6045.

COMMUNICATION

Parents are required to provide current contact information. To make changes to contact information, please call The Learning Center at (228) 897-6045.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

All students will be monitored closely during the first 4 weeks of school. If students are not making academic progress or meeting the expectations for the Gulfport Virtual Academy, students may be required to return to the traditional setting.

DEVICES AND CONNECTIVITY

Each virtual student will be issued a district Chromebook to be used for virtual learning. Parents are responsible for ensuring that devices are cared for and returned.

The parent is responsible for ensuring that students have a reliable internet connection. The district may issue a limited number of WiFi hotspots; however, these will be issued based on need and availability. To request an application for a WiFi hotspot, call The Learning Center at (228) 897-6045. The parent is responsible for securing internet access prior to the start of the school year.

All parents and students are required to sign the Internet Use Policy.

SCHEDULE

Full-time virtual students will receive 330 minutes of daily instruction through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction using the Gulfport School District's current curriculum. Lesson plans will include details for virtual learning and denote synchronous vs asynchronous activities.

- **SYNCHRONOUS:** Students will be required to log in to a video conferencing platform at times designated by their teacher to participate in live classes with teachers and student peers. A schedule of virtual meeting log in times will be provided by the teacher and log in times will remain the same each day. The time length of the live lesson will be determined by the teacher and may vary from day to day depending upon the lesson. Teachers may offer additional times throughout the day for students to log in and receive support.
- **ASYNCHRONOUS:** Students will be required to log in daily to Schoology and complete and submit independent assignments.

ELECTIVES

The majority of elective coursework will be completed asynchronously; however, elective teachers may schedule synchronous meetings to check in with students. Elective courses are included in the student's daily schedule and that time should be used appropriately.

STUDENT SERVICES

Eligible virtual students will receive scheduled support services. The assigned service provider will arrange meetings, monitor and document student progress and services, and communicate with families, teachers and administrators. Service providers will submit documentation of services provided to the Gulfport Virtual Academy Administrator.

STATE AND DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS

All virtual students will be required to participate in required district and statewide assessments in person. Students will come in person for district assessments at the end of each 9 weeks. The Gulfport Virtual Academy teachers will send out a schedule of dates, times, and locations for all required district and state assessments.

HANDBOOK

Virtual students are required to follow all student handbook and classroom expectations (e.g. student conduct, dress code, food/drink allowance, etc.). Serious infractions will result in administrative referral.

TRANSPORTATION

If students elect to participate in extra-curricular activities or optional in person electives, the parents are responsible for arranging transportation. Parents must provide transportation for students to take all required district and state assessments.

RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

Parents are responsible for picking up materials and resources during scheduled distribution times.

AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW ALL EXPECATIONS

Virtual students are expected to show adequate academic progress. If the student fails to meet these requirements or the teacher and administrator agree that the virtual learning environment is not meeting the needs of the student, the student will be required to return to in-person learning.

In selecting virtual learning as an option, I agree to adhere to these guidelines and expectations in addition to applicable expectations in the student handbook.

Student Name	Student Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date