

St. Clair County Virtual Preparatory Academy (SCCVPA)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Virtual School Option?

The SCCVPA is *the public-school version of homeschooling*. The parent is called the Learning Coach and takes on the responsibility of using the required curriculum at home with the student. The Learning Coach (parent or guardian) facilitates the instruction using the materials and plans the order/sequence of the instructional day.

SCCVPA is *different* from traditional homeschooling because there is a set/required curriculum that the students must follow. Students are also required to take all state and district testing required of the public schools' students. Students' attendance is checked and monitored.

SCCVPA is a blended educational model and assigns each student a highly qualified certified teacher to each of the subjects that the student is required to complete. The teacher is available for assistance if the student needs help understanding an assignment or content material.

2. How do I apply?

Go to the St. Clair County School homepage (sccboe.org)

Look for Tab: Our Schools

In the drop box click on Virtual Prep Academy

You should now be on the SCCVPA homepage.

Look for the Tab: For Parents

Click on New Student Application

Complete the Application:



You can also find the application under Quick Links at the bottom of the VPA webpage:

Quicklinks

2024-2025 New Student Application

The link has also been shared on the St. Clair County Virtual Preparatory Academy Facebook page.

3. What happens after I apply?

A SCCVPA Virtual School review team member will call with follow up questions. This is considered part of the interview process. Then the admissions committee meets to review the application and follow up questions to decide on the acceptance of the student. Students who are accepted will receive an acceptance letter sent to the email provided in the application.

4. Why is there an interview?

The interview process helps in making the determination if the SCCVPA is the best educational approach in servicing the needs of the student. The interview helps the parent and the virtual school discuss the approach and if the needs of the students can be met using the curriculum provided.

5. How long does the application to acceptance process take?

We are working as fast as we can to process all the applications. We strive for a 1 to 2-week turnaround time. Please be patient as we are experiencing a high volume of applications.

6. Why do I have to commit to a full year?

The curriculum used at the SCCVPA follows a scope and sequence that is different than the regular public schools. This will cause curriculum gaps for the student if you come in and/or leave mid-year. Students need to complete the entire year to ensure the completion of all the Alabama Course of Study objectives.

7. How is attendance taken?

Attendance is measured through the completion of lessons and assignments. Students are required to be on-pace and complete all assignments maintaining a minimum of 70% average in each class, to be considered present and attending.

Students are marked absent if they are behind and below 70%. After 3 consecutive weeks of inadequate progress (below 70% average and not on pace) then the student is marked absent daily until they are back on pace or has a 70% in the class.

Parents are asked to communicate with the faculty of the Academy if the student will be offline for an extended period (not including weekends or holidays). SCCVPA follows the St. Clair County Schools Code of Conduct for unexcused absences and truancy.

8. Are there certain times the student must be logged in?

Yes, the assigned teacher *may require* students to attend mandatory sessions online because of state grade level requirements. However, most students *who are on-pace and have a 70% average can set their own schedule* with their Parent/Learning Coach. SCCVPA teachers are monitoring daily the progress of the students. Simply logging into the curriculum lesson or course is not considered attending for the Alabama's Compulsory School Attendance Law. The SCCVPA strongly encourages students to work a minimum of 30 minutes per course each day (5 courses= 150 minutes). This helps to ensure the student maintains an adequate pace and completes the school year in 180 days.

The staff of the SCCVPA will be available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm to aid students who need help in their course. If your student is working after 3:00pm and needs assistance, the teacher will not be available until the next school day. (Before 8 and after 3 will be used for cleaning/sanitizing the Academy.)

9. Will the student be required to come to the Academy?

Yes, there are times students will be required to come into the Academy. Students are required to come to the Academy for an orientation to the program. Students also must attend all state and district testing. SCCVPA may also require a Personalize Learning Plan (PLP) for each student who does not maintain a 70% average or remain on pace with assignments. The PLP could require the student to come to the Academy to complete lessons. Students who are identified as needing intervention lessons or need lessons provided by special services (IEP, Speech, 504) may also be required to come into the Academy.

10. What is the school schedule for the SCCVPA?

The SCCVPA follows the St. Clair County Schools Calendar. The calendar can be found on the sccboe.org home page.

11. Can the student still try out for Sports?

Yes, only students zoned in the St. Clair County school district, who attend the Academy are eligible to participate in sports. The student is only eligible for the school they are zoned for according to their physical address. All eligibility standards for participation will apply for SCCVPA students and criterion to participate can be found in the St. Clair County Student Code of Conduct. If the student is interested in this option, please note this on the application or in the interview. The Academy administrator will facilitate this request with the appropriate St. Clair County public-school administrator. *Students who enroll in the SCCVPA that reside outside of St. Clair County must contact their local Board of Education to determine athlete eligibility and participation.*

12. What is the cost of the SCCVPA?

There is no cost for students who reside in St. Clair County. The curriculum is provided free to the student.

13. What is the technology requirement?

Each student in the program will need a laptop or desktop. The curriculum is completely on-line. Several students sharing a device will not work since each student in the household will need to be logged in daily. You will also need high-speed internet.

Chrome Books, iPad, smartphones, or other tablets may not be compatible with our existing program. Our students are provided with Microsoft 365 and will need a laptop or computer that will run the Microsoft 365 software.

Students will also need to be able to print and scan documents. This device could be shared by multiple students in a household. The SCCVPA does not supply devices, internet, or printers/scanners.

14. What other materials will my child need?

Students will need basic school supplies. Elementary students are provided a supply list at orientation. Middle and High School students may want binders, notebooks, and an agenda to stay organized.

15. What Special Education or 504 services are available?

The Academy can provide most of the same services as the regular public school. During the interview, the needs of the student will be discussed so the parent can feel confident the child's needs can be met. The Academy currently serves students who have an IEP or 504.