
VLA
VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY


BELTON
ISD



WELCOME

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Purpose:

To inform families about the BISD Virtual Learning Academy Pilot for Grades 9-12

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WHY

Our priority is to provide exceptional learning experiences that bring our Journey of a Graduate to life for each and every student.

Our community has expressed a desire to have expanded opportunities for innovative, flexible learning options that provide tailored educational choices.

HOW

Under new state laws and guidelines (SB 569 & TEC 30B), Texas school districts are now authorized to offer diverse virtual and hybrid models.

Program Overview

The Belton ISD Virtual Learning Academy Pilot Program is designed to offer an expanded, flexible learning environment tailored specifically for high school students in grades 9 through 12.

- High Quality Learning Experiences
- Flexibility
- Choice
- Extracurricular & Campus Life

Choice in Learning Models

Virtual

100 % online with comprehensive course catalog.

Ideal for self motivated students who thrive with independence and flexibility. Learn from anywhere.

Hybrid

At least 4 courses taken online.

Some classes in person at zoned BISD campus including school based CTE, fine arts, athletics. Ability to participate in extracurricular activities with transportation provided by family.

All courses delivered by TEXAS - certified educators in alignment with and to the rigor of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

Full - time Belton ISD enrolled student

Transfer or reside in the Belton ISD school attendance zone

Abide by the Belton ISD Student Code of Conduct, Belton ISD Student Handbook, and the Belton ISD Virtual School Handbook

Free for eligible Texas residents

District Issued Chromebook

Engage daily in lessons on the BISD approved virtual platform

Student Eligibility Requirements

- **Grade Level:** Must be entering grades 9–12 for the 2026–2027 school year.
- **Residency:** Must reside within Belton ISD boundaries or have a processed Out-of-District Transfer application. All out-of-district transfers must meet the requirements established in Board policy FDA(LOCAL).
- **Attendance Stability:** Must have fewer than 10 absences during the 2025–2026 school year (exceptions may be made for documented extenuating circumstances).
- **Academic Standards:** All virtual students must participate in required state and local assessments, demonstrating prior academic success and grade-level proficiency via previous STAAR/EOC results, an official final report card, transcript, or equivalent records from their prior educational setting. High school applicants must also submit their academic history to verify they remain on track for a four-year graduation timeline.
- **Student Conduct:** Students must be in "good standing" to enroll in the standard virtual program. Must agree to abide by the BISD Student Code of Conduct, the Student Handbook, and the Virtual Academy Contract.

Learning Experience



Online Instruction

An innovative experience learning that provides a strong foundation in learning.

Virtual students will benefit from:

- Curriculum aligned to state and national standards
- College and career readiness design standards for student success
- NCAA-approved courses for student athletes
- Highly qualified TEXAS -certified teachers trained in online instruction
- Real-time insight into student performance

Pacing & Delivery:

- Asynchronous delivery of instruction
- Access rigorous curriculum and content on the students' own schedule
- Expected to stay on track, 4 hours per day
- Synchronous instruction provided for one hour each week in core courses

Special Programs

Accommodations: Virtual teachers are General Education teachers that are responsible for providing differentiated instruction and implementing general-education accommodations to support a student's IEP or 504 plan. The district is still responsible for providing special education services and instruction as designated in the IEP/504. Students will need to have an ARD or 504 meeting to determine if services through the virtual platform can meet their academic needs.

Common Accommodation Examples:

- Retaking tests/quizzes
- Extra time on assignments/tests
- Reeducations in activities, content, assignments and/or tests
- Restating or clarifying directions/instructions
- Provide copies of presentation notes
- Utilize accessibility tools
- Live Lesson recordings will be available

Communication

Communication with the Teacher: Students will be able to communicate with their teachers through the learning management system

- **Email:** Students will use email through the learning management system to contact their teacher
- **Office hours:** Teachers will have scheduled office hours for synchronous connections
- **Phone:** Teachers will provide phone contact information options for scheduling one on one calls with students and/or parents
- **Synchronous Instruction:** Core Content teachers hold live instruction sessions once a week to provide direct instruction or facilitate learning activities. Students are expected to take part.

Learning Management System

The Learning Management System will offer a single space for most learning resources including:

- Activities/Assignments
- Assessments
- Notes
- Gradebook
- Email
- Calendar
- Announcements
- Help/Support Center

Orientation and Support

Parent Access:

- Parents or Guardian will be granted viewer access.
- Parents will be able to see every assignment, lesson, grade, and message from the teacher

Orientation Course:

- Students will complete an Orientation Course to learn how to use the learning management system and how to contact their teachers.

Orientation Meeting

- Prior to the start of school in August, we will hold a parent/student orientation meeting to explain the platform, logins, and daily attendance.
- An orientation course is also provided for parents.

Student Expectations



Virtual & Hybrid Learners

Flexibility with Accountability

- Engage in the platform daily (on school days)
  - Must meet daily attendance requirements
  - Make academic progress in each course
- BISD Coordinator of Virtual Learning monitors academic and attendance accountability
- Grades and Attendance are issued by Belton ISD
  - 3 week Progress Reports
  - 9 week Report Cards
  - Daily attendance requirements (compulsory attendance law)
- Hybrid students are required to attend classes on campus daily
  - Families are responsible for transportation

Student Expectations

Students will

- Engage in the platform daily (on school days)
- Make adequate progress in a course
- Act with academic integrity
- Maintain passing grades
- Attend all required on-site testing
- Abide by the Belton ISD Code of Conduct
- Abide by Belton ISD Student Handbook
- Abide by Belton ISD Virtual Academy Contract

Failure to follow through with the expectations will require a student

- Be moved to Probationary Status
- Removed from the Virtual School and moved back to face-to-face instruction or have their transfer revoked for out of district students

Extracurricular Participation



Extracurricular Activities:

Fine Arts, Athletics, CTE, Clubs, and Organizations

As part of our commitment to a comprehensive student experience under the TEC Chapter 30B framework, virtual and hybrid students are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Our guidelines ensure students still have the opportunity to engage in school-sponsored clubs, organizations, fine arts, athletics, and CTE offerings.

Students must maintain academic eligibility, meet daily engagement expectations (in and out of season), and adhere to standard UIL eligibility rules and the BISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Varsity Athletic Eligibility

For Students attending their zoned BISD campus (BHS or LBHS):

Home Campus Exception: Students attending their designated home attendance zone campus (the school they are zoned for by address) are eligible for sub-varsity and varsity athletics.

For Students not attending their zoned BISD campus (BNT@W and Out of District Transfers):

To be eligible for UIL athletics, students must attend at least four hours of in-person instruction on their BISD campus every school day during their first year of enrollment to satisfy UIL residency requirements. The student would only be eligible for sub-varsity competition during their first year as a virtual student.

Application & Enrollment



Campus Assignment

BISD Residents: Students enrolled in virtual and hybrid learning are assigned to their zoned campus based on their primary residence.
New Tech @ Waskow (BNT@W): Admission is application-based.

Out-of-District Transfers: Accepted students are assigned to the campus in closest proximity to their primary residence unless they apply and are accepted to BNT@W.

Timeline

May 18 - Board Report
May 18 - Emails go out to Belton ISD Families
May 20 - Parent Information Sessions
12:00 pm
6:00 pm
May 22 - Parent Information Session
12:00 pm (Spanish)
May 27 - Parent Information Sessions
12:00 pm
6:00 pm (Spanish)
June 3 - Applications Close
June 17 - Student Acceptance Notifications Sent out

VLA Website & Application



bisd.net/virtual

Questions



Thank You!

VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

bit.ly/bisdvlafaq