

INSTRUCTION

6172.6(a)

VIRTUAL/ONLINE COURSES

The Board of Education believes that distance education through virtual/online courses is an alternative means of instruction for students. Interactive distance learning does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor or other students. Students in the District may earn credit through virtual/online courses.

Virtual/online courses will be part of this District's educational program delivery system to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction.

All virtual/online programs and courses will be consistent with District instructional goals and aligned with Connecticut's academic standards, curriculum frameworks and assessment. The administration is directed to periodically review instructional materials ensure they meet program standards.

The District will not use virtual/online courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K-8.

Credit from a virtual/online course may be earned due to one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The student is unable to take an offered course due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
2. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
3. The District has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
4. The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
5. Or for any other reason deemed appropriate to further facilitate the learning environment for the student or as may be deemed necessary by the administration.

As determined by Board/school policy, students applying for permission to take a virtual/online course will do the following:

- Complete prerequisites
- Provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in a virtual/online learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a virtual/online course.
- Students are expected to adhere to the District code of conduct, rules of behavior and user agreements during virtual/online classes.

INSTRUCTION

6172.6(b)

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be posted on student transcripts.

The tuition fee for a virtual/online course shall be borne by the District for students enrolled full-time. The Board shall pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take virtual/online courses in alternative settings.

Through its policies and/or supervision plan, the school shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students taking virtual/online courses.

Evaluation

The District will evaluate the educational effectiveness of the virtual/online courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessment based on state curriculum standards as well as student satisfaction. The District will use this evaluation to decide whether to grant credit for the course or to continue or discontinue the use of the virtual/online course.

- Approval of any course shall be based upon the course content and rigor, its length and scope, its method of assessing knowledge acquired by the student, the qualifications of the instructor and other appropriate factors.
- Participation in an on-line course will be supervised by a certified teacher.

(cf. 5131.4/6177 – Technology)

(cf. 5127.1 – Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a. High school graduation requirements.

Litchfield Board of Education

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