

DISTANCE/ONLINE/VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Code **IJNDAA** Issued **03/08**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for providing technology-delivered courses as an alternative means of instruction for students.

The district will utilize technology-delivered courses as part of its education program to increase accessibility and flexibility in the delivery of instruction in the district. In addition to regular, classroom-based instruction, students in the district may earn credit through accredited distance, online or virtual learning courses operated through the district's program and/or the state-run South Carolina Virtual School Program.

District courses

All technology-delivered programs and courses offered by the district will be consistent with state academic standards and instructional goals of the district, ensuring both the rigor of the course and the quality of instruction. The district will review instructional materials periodically to ensure they meet program standards.

The district will integrate technology-delivered instruction as part of the regular instruction provided by a certified teacher in the district for grades K-12.

Grades nine through 12

Students in grades nine through 12 may earn a maximum of 12 units of academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing technology-delivered courses offered through agencies/universities approved by the board.

A student may earn credit for a distance, online or virtual learning course under the following circumstances:

- The high school does not offer the course due to lack of certified personnel.
- The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
- The district has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
- The principal, with agreement from the student's parent/legal guardian and teachers, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- The student needs the course for credit recovery.
- The student needs the course to meet graduation requirements.

- The student must be enrolled in a school in the district, and, if applicable, will take the course during the regular school day at the school site.
- The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation.

Application for courses

Students applying for permission to take a technology-delivered course must do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm that he/she possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in a distance, online or virtual learning environment.
- Obtain the approval of the principal or his/her designee before enrolling in a technology-delivered course.
- Adhere to the district code of conduct to include rules of behavior, consequences for violations and signed student agreements.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the district.

Evaluation

The district will evaluate the education effectiveness of the technology-delivered courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state academic 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 technology-delivered course.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a “virtual library” available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance and hands-on training and information.

The school will be responsible for providing applicable in-school supervision and monitoring of students enrolled in technology-delivered courses.

The district will not use distance, online or virtual education courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K through eight.

South Carolina Virtual School Program

Under this state-run program offering technology-delivered courses, students enrolled in the district’s high school may be awarded a maximum of three online initial credits in a school year and no more than 12 online initial credits throughout high school.

The district will transcribe the student’s final numeric grade to the student’s permanent grade and transcript.

Students enrolled in these courses will take final exams and appropriate state assessments in a proctored environment.

Nothing in state law requires the district to provide either home computer equipment or Internet access to a student enrolling in this program.

Approved March 11, 2008

Cf. IHBG, IHBH

Legal references:

South Carolina Code of Laws 1976, as amended:

Section 59-16-10, et seq. – South Carolina Virtual School Program