IJNDAA Distance ONLINE, AND VIRTUAL Education

Issued 7/03, Draft/19

Purpose: To establish the board’s vision and the basic structure for providing distance education as an alternative means of instruction for students.

The district will utilize technology-delivered courses as part of its educational 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 virtual education 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 through twelve (12).

Grades Nine through Twelve (12)

Students in grades nine through twelve (12) may earn 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 student and parent may request access to the course. Instructional staff will review the course to deem whether it is appropriate for the student’s academic needs.
- 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 medical 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.

Interactive distance learning is instructional delivery that does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor.

Distance education courses will be part of the educational program delivery system 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 distance education provided by virtual/online and two-way video/audio courses.

All distance education programs and courses will be consistent with 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. Distance education courses will provide the opportunity for substantial, personal and timely interactions between staff and students and among students.

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

Students may earn the maximum units of academic credit set by the South Carolina Department of Education to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses offered through agencies/universities outside the district.

Application for courses
A student applying for permission to take a technology delivered distance education course must do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide counselor recommendations to confirm that he/she possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online, two-way learning environment.
- Before enrolling in online courses offered by agencies other than the district, students must 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.

**District review committee**

The superintendent or his/her designee will establish a committee to review all technology delivered courses prior to use by the district.

**Evaluation**

The district will assess the educational effectiveness of the technology delivered courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state curriculum academic standards as well as student satisfaction. The district will use this evaluation to determine whether to grant credit for the course or to continue or discontinue the use of the technology-delivered course.

The school will pay the tuition fee for the course for students enrolled full time. The board will pay the fee for students who are permitted to take technology delivered courses in alternative settings.

If a cost is associated with the course, the student is responsible for paying for the course based on the district’s existing formula for assessing fees. Fees that are deemed as tuition must be paid in full by the student.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a “virtual library” available through the Internet 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.

**State-Run Virtual Education Program**
The state-run virtual education program offers public, private, or home schooled students access to technology-driven courses. These courses may be offered to district students for an initial unit of credit and for access to credit recovery programs under guidelines established by the State Board of Education. 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. This virtual education program will not award a South Carolina high school diploma.

Cf. IHBG, IHBH

The school will be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students enrolled in distance education courses offered by the district.

Adopted 7/1/03; Revised ^

Legal References:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-16-10, et seq. - South Carolina Virtual School Program.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
   1. R43-248 - Virtual education program.