



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

Pangburn School District (7309000)

School Year 2021-2022

! New Digital Learning Waiver requests can not be created after May 1st. Existing drafts and revisions will continue to be reviewed.

Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the district.

A notification letter will be sent to the superintendent at the email address listed above upon approval by the Arkansas State Board of Education.

NOTE: The approved application must then be posted on the district website - State Required Information.

District:
LEA #: 7309000
Superintendent: David Rolland
Email: drolland@pangburnschools.org
Phone: (501) 728-4511
Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 1 Year
(School year 2021-2022 to 2022-2023)

The proposed waiver(s) will apply to the following schools:

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
7309038 - Pangburn Elementary School	K-12 All Courses	Asynchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
7309039 - Pangburn High School		Synchronous		CMS



Waivers

Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
Attendance			6-18-213(a)(2)	



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
				<p>The district will need an attendance waiver because the District has adopted the following virtual attendance policy:</p> <p>Students in K-8 will be required to attend all synchronous lessons. Students will be counted absent when not in attendance. Pangburn School District attendance policies will apply to virtual students.</p> <p>After 2 consecutive days of student inactivity, the teacher/mentor will notify the parent to communicate the concern and expectation that the student must participate in online learning on a daily basis to make academic progress. If direct contact is not made initially, a return email or phone call from the parent is required within 24 hours.</p> <p>After 4 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the teacher/mentor will report to the principal who will contact the parent.</p> <p>After 6 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be held with the parent, teacher/mentor, and administrator to discuss academic progress and concerns.</p> <p>After 10 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent, and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the principal and SRO will conduct a home visit.</p> <p>9-12 Virtual Arkansas is a “high touch” virtual learning experience that harnesses the benefit of synchronous or “live” instruction married with aligned asynchronous courses. This allows for students and instructors to develop relationships, address needed “just-in-time” instruction, and flexibility with learning. At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional one:one Zoom sessions as needed. While Zoom</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
				<p>sessions are not required, they are highly encouraged as empirical data has shown. Students who attend Zoom are shown to be more successful than students who do not attend Zoom.</p> <p>Students in grades 9-12 will be required to attend all synchronous lessons. Students will be counted absent when not in attendance. Pangburn School District attendance policies will apply to virtual students.</p> <p>After 2 consecutive days of student inactivity, the advisor will notify the parent to communicate the concern and expectation that the student must participate in online learning on a daily basis to make academic progress. If direct contact is not made initially, a return email or phone call from the parent is required within 24 hours. After 4 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the advisor will report to the principal who will contact the parent. After 6 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be held with the parent, advisor, and administrator to discuss academic progress and concerns. After 10 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent, and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the principal and SRO will conduct a home visit.</p> <p>Students/teachers are also able to communicate 24/7 via the CANVAS LMS messaging or the SIS email system that is monitored by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are expected to reply to students within 24 hours of a student communication during the school week. Students are expected to read and interact with messages in their courses on a daily basis during the school week.</p> <p>The Pangburn School District reserves the right to require students to return to brick and mortar after the above steps have been taken.</p>



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Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
<p>Class Size Number of students:</p>	1-A.5	<p>DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</p>	<p>6-17- 812(a)(2)</p>	<p>Elementary School (grades K-6): The average student-to-teacher ratio for elementary school core courses is 50:1 . Teachers have an average of 50 students assigned to them as students in these grades have the same teacher for all of their core courses.</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
<p>Teaching Load Number of students: 50</p>	1-A.5	<p>DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</p>	6-17-812	<p>The district is not requesting a waiver for teaching load.</p>
<p>Teacher of Record provides virtual instruction to only students who are remote. Please note that 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.</p>				
<p>Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	<p>The district will need a six hour instructional day Waiver because school days or portions of days pertaining to virtual learners will have an instructional day less than 6 hours per day or 30 hours per week.</p>
Clock Hours	1-A.2			<p>The district will need Clock Hour Waiver because credit will be awarded on subject matter competency.</p>
<p>Recess (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.3	<p>DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index, Section 7.11</p>	6-6-102(a)(5)	<p>The district will need a recess waiver because K-8 remote students will not be required to have 40 minutes of recess. The instructional day will be less than 6 hours.</p>



Please complete the following application with responses describing the school and district digital programming.

Interaction / Delivery

What are the ways teachers and students will interact with digital content (Synchronous or Asynchronous)? Please describe instructional expectations and participation for students.



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Wilbur D. Mills ESC (WDMESC) K8 Virtual option is a dual learning virtual experience with both synchronous and asynchronous instruction through Pearson Connexus. This model allows for flexibility with learning, student-teacher relationships, and targeted learning for all students. LiveLessons for core instruction occur at least twice weekly. LiveLessons are recorded so students can revisit for refresher or if the student missed the LiveLesson. LiveLessons are required. Additionally, students have a variety of other options for connecting synchronously with our teachers (email, office hours, etc). Students can contact assigned teachers in Pearson Connexus using Webmail. Students also have their teachers' phone numbers. Turnaround time for responses from Teachers and Advisor Teachers is 1 business day per Pearson regulations, but generally occurs within a shorter timeframe. All teachers have 3 hours of weekly office time for support. Teachers request students to attend LiveLessons, pull small groups, and/or work 1:1. These requests are based on student needs identified by robust grading practices. Students in grades K-2 will be provided daily virtual SOR instructional lessons for a maximum of 45 minutes.

Students in grades K-2 will be provided daily virtual SOR instructional lessons for a maximum of 45 minutes. All K-2 students will be required to synchronously attend daily homeroom. This is similar to carpet time in a traditional classroom. Daily math skills/reinforcement, science of reading instructional lessons, story time, show and tell, and student to student interaction, as well as teacher to student interaction takes place during this time.

K-2 students will be required to synchronously attend daily homeroom. In addition, K-2 students must attend at least 2 LiveLessons per week in reading, math, science, and social studies. K-2 students must attend all LiveLessons, small group interventions, 1:1 sessions requested by Pearson teacher, parent, or school district. These requests will be made based on formative assessments and other data. All small group instruction and 1:1 sessions are provided synchronously.

LiveLesson sessions provide for real-time direct instruction with individual and small groups of students using voice-over IP, chat, electronic whiteboard, and shared web surfing. These sessions allow teachers and students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, LiveLesson sessions will be recorded and saved for students to revisit at a later date if they had scheduling conflicts or want to refresh themselves on the topics covered. Teachers have a limit on the number of students allowed in one LiveLessons, therefore, teachers teach multiple LiveLessons. During this time teachers monitor students' progress and invite struggling students to other sessions targeted toward weak skill/content. Teachers can also invite excelling students to LiveLessons that engage beyond the material covered. LiveLessons may also contain breakout rooms for collaborative work.

All LiveLessons are recorded for asynchronous access. Music, art, PE, WebQuest, etc) classes have synchronous LiveLessons based on course. Students and



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... classes have synchronous LiveLessons based on course. Students and parents are provided with LiveLesson schedule.

All subjects include synchronous and asynchronous lessons and engagement

Students in K-8 will be required to attend all synchronous lessons. Students will be counted absent when not in attendance. Pangburn School District attendance policies will apply to virtual students.

After 2 consecutive days of student inactivity, the teacher/mentor will notify the parent to communicate the concern and expectation that the student must participate in online learning on a daily basis to make academic progress. If direct contact is not made initially, a return email or phone call from the parent is required within 24 hours.

After 4 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the teacher/mentor will report to the principal who will contact the parent.

After 6 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be held with the parent, teacher/mentor, and administrator to discuss academic progress and concerns.

After 10 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent, and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the principal and SRO will conduct a home visit.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas is a “high touch” virtual learning experience that harnesses the benefit of synchronous or “live” instruction married with aligned asynchronous courses. This allows for students and instructors to develop relationships, address needed “just-in-time” instruction, and flexibility with learning. At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional one:one Zoom sessions as needed. Empirical data has shown students who attend Zoom are more successful than students who do not attend. Students in K-8 will be required to attend all synchronous lessons. Students will be counted absent when not in attendance. Pangburn School District attendance policies will apply to virtual students.

All Pangburn students in distance learning will zoom at least once per week with each teacher and make contact with their advisor at least twice per week

After 2 consecutive days of student inactivity, the advisor will notify the parent to communicate the concern and expectation that the student must participate in online learning on a daily basis to make academic progress. If direct contact is not made initially, a return email or phone call from the parent is required within 24 hours.

After 4 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the advisor will report to the principal who will contact the parent.

After 6 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be



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student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be held with the parent, advisor, and administrator to discuss academic progress and concerns.

After 10 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent, and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the principal and SRO will conduct a home visit.

Students/teachers are also able to communicate 24/7 via the CANVAS LMS messaging or the SIS email system that is monitored by Virtual Arkansas.

Teachers are expected to reply to students within 24 hours of a student communication during the school week. Students are expected to read and interact with messages in their courses on a daily basis during the school week.



What delivery approach will the school or district utilize to meet the needs of both teachers and students (i.e., virtual (online) / remote (distance) or blended (hybrid)? Please explain.

The Pangburn School District will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through the WDMESC K-8 option, which is Pearson Connexus. The program will provide instruction using a dual model of both synchronous and asynchronous online learning. Students will engage in digital coursework through the Pearson Connexus Learning Management System (LMS). All students will have the opportunity to participate in live LiveLesson sessions for synchronous learning with the Pearson teacher. All learning and instruction will be virtual.

All virtual students will be invited to participate in all field trips, academic competitions, and other special enrichment functions that occur in the brick and mortar.

Grades 9-12 will utilize online virtual remote learning through Virtual Arkansas. Virtual Arkansas utilizes a synchronous and asynchronous approach to online learning. Students will engage in their digital coursework through the CANVAS Learning Management System (LMS). Students will have opportunities to engage in synchronous learning through live scheduled Zoom meetings with their teacher. All learning will take place online.

Will teachers be dedicated to primarily remote instruction or serving in a dual role, teaching both remote and in-person learners?

Â *If teachers will serve in a dual role, describe whether it will be simultaneously, meaning remote and in-person at the same time with course/schedule specific considerations.

Pangburn School District will use Arkansas certified teachers as instructors for all course content from the Pearson Connexus LMS. Pearson will provide certified teachers of record for virtual learners. Delivery of instruction will be 100% virtual. Pearson teachers will be dedicated to remote instruction only. All virtual teachers will be employed and managed by Pearson. This model with synchronous targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and enrichment.

Grades 9-12 will be using Virtual Arkansas for its delivery of instruction for our 100% virtual students. Virtual Arkansas provides a fully certified Arkansas teacher of record while we provide the facilitator. A paraprofessional will be used as the facilitator for Virtual Arkansas. Suzanne Louks, assistant principal, will be the point of contact for Pearson. Virtual Arkansas provides training and support for facilitators via the Facilitator Coordinator. This model includes synchronous targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and activities.

Describe the expectation for teacher instruction, interaction, and frequency with virtual students.



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It is required that students attend all LiveLesson sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend LiveLesson sessions are more successful than students who do not attend LiveLesson sessions. LiveLesson sessions provide for real-time direct instruction with individual and small groups of students using voice-over IP, chat, electronic whiteboard, and shared web surfing. These sessions allow teachers and students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, LiveLesson sessions may be recorded and saved for students to revisit at a later date if they had scheduling conflicts or want to refresh themselves on the topics covered. Teachers and students will be able to communicate using the Pearson Connexus Learning Management System or via email. Additionally, virtual teachers are expected to communicate with parents and students in the WDMESC K-8 Virtual program. WDMESC K-8 Virtual teachers are expected to monitor students and provide timely grading and robust feedback on assignments for students, parent/guardians, and District Point of Contact to monitor.

- Pearson OBL Teacher grading of assessments: 2 business days
- Pearson OBL Teacher grading of portfolio items: 5 business days
- Teachers send Welcome WebMail messages within 2-5 business days after the course start date.

Standard communication between virtual teachers and students will be through webmail. All student and teacher communication is captured and logged.

Virtual teachers will also make phone calls and share their phone numbers with students. Students can request meeting times through the You Can Book Me website, pop in LiveLessons, or meet during teacher's set office hours. Virtual teachers will also pull small groups or work 1:1 with students based on needs. Programs enrolling full-time students in grades 6-8 with Pearson teachers will receive an advisor in addition to subject-specific teachers. Advisors are not state-certified teachers, but collaborate with teachers, students, and caretakers to ensure student success. The Advisor's role is to:

- Increase student success in courses through an emphasis on quality communications, effective use of data, and accurate documentation of efforts.
- Improve the student and family's overall online education experience and success through collaboration and coordination with Program Managers and content area teachers.

Advisor responsibilities include:

- Monitoring student participation and performance;
- Helping students navigate the Connexus platform and other Pearson technology; and
- Facilitating communication between the student, and the subject matter teacher(s) as needed.

Full-time students in grades K-5 are not assigned a Pearson Advisor, but work closely with their assigned core subject virtual teacher to ensure success and are monitored by the District's Point of Contact. Pearson will communicate with your District's Point of Contact on a biweekly basis.

Grades 9-12

For students utilizing Virtual Arkansas courses, teachers actively monitor their



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For students utilizing virtual/online courses, teachers actively monitor their courses, provide synchronous sessions and maintain regular communication via the LMS and SIS messaging systems. Each week teachers send a grade report to the student and parent/guardian, and initiate further contact with students demonstrating difficulties with course content. Students are highly encouraged but not required to attend all Zoom sessions. Teachers are continuously provided PD and support for providing engaging and relevant synchronous instruction.

If utilizing district waivers for **class size**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed class size in digital learning settings?



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Core Courses

Elementary School (grades K–5): The average student-to-teacher ratio for elementary school core courses is 50:1 . Teachers have an average of 50 students assigned to them as students in these grades have the same teacher for all of their core courses.

Middle School (grades 6–8): The average student-to-teacher ratio for middle school core courses is 37:1. Teachers have an average of 160–190 students assigned to them as teachers are assigned to particular subjects or grades and have multiple sections of students. In addition, each full-time middle school student has an Advisory Teacher who assists students with college and career planning and general academic guidance. If these teachers were included in the student-to-teacher ratio, it would be lower.

· Electives

Music (grades K–8): The average student-to-teacher ratio for music is 37:1. Teachers have an average of 190–200 students assigned to them.

Foreign Language (grades K–8): The average student-to-teacher ratio for foreign language is 37:1. Teachers have an average of 190–200 students assigned to them.

Art and Physical Education (K–8): Both Art and Physical Education are primarily self-directed courses with instruction embedded in the course. Students track their activities, and their activity reports are reviewed and graded by the teacher. Therefore, the average student-to-teacher ratio for Art and Physical Education is not relevant, but if it was calculated in a similar manner to other courses, it would be about 400:1.

WDMESC K-8 Virtual option will utilize Pearson training for supporting virtual teachers. Pearson develops a yearly map of Professional Development and training session offerings. This map is in line with the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Our Professional Development offerings are approved by the Arkansas Department of Education and count towards the required 36 hours of Professional Development required for teachers each year. Additional continuous learning requirements for certification are generally met through graduate level course work and/or additional external training opportunities. Trainings focus on developing virtual classroom management, digital pedagogy, data driven instruction, techniques for supporting social-emotional health of students in a virtual space, techniques for supporting diverse learning groups (exceptional students, gifted students, language learners), and techniques to support a mastery-based instructional model to ensure students have multiple pathways and opportunities to successfully master learning standards.

WDMESC K-5 virtual students will receive support through robust grading and feedback provided by virtual teachers. 6-8 students will receive an advisor in addition to subject-specific teachers. Advisors collaborate with teachers, students, and caretakers to ensure student success. Teachers will pull students as needed into small groups and one on one sessions to provide extra support when needed. Pearson Program Manager will monitor student mastery and engagement daily and report to District Point of Contact. District Point of Contact will inform proper school staff of any supports needed. School district will provide the extra support as needed and that aligned with school policy. This could be a home visit, parent conference, face-to-face tutoring in brick in mortar setting etc



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monitoring, etc.

District Point of Contact will monitor the effectiveness of class size through the Pearson teacher evaluations, student level of mastery, and student engagement through attendance.

Virtual students in grades 9-12 will utilize Virtual Arkansas from home or another remote location. Students who are attending classes on campus through Virtual Arkansas will meet in our distance learning classroom. In both instances, students will be provided a teacher through Virtual Arkansas who will communicate with the Virtual Arkansas facilitator on campus. Our facilitator stays in close contact with advisors who communicate with parents on a regular basis.

If utilizing district waivers for **teaching load**, what supports will the district put in place to support the teacher and students? How will the district monitor and determine if the supports are adequate for teachers who exceed teaching loads in digital learning settings?

9-12 Virtual Arkansas partners with schools to ensure student success. In cases where districts are using Virtual Arkansas, teacher training and support is solely the responsibility of Virtual Arkansas. Partnership with the schools regarding providing a facilitator and communication back and forth pertaining to students is an ongoing part of the support expected in this model (synchronous/asynchronous) of instruction. By partnering with Virtual Arkansas for our virtual students, we will allow our teachers to focus on those students on campus.

Technology / Platforms



Identify the learning management system/content management system that schools and districts will use? (Canvas, Buzz, Google Classroom, etc.)

K-8 virtual students will use Connexus. It is the online learning management system used by Pearson. At home or wherever the Internet is accessible, this user-friendly online system connects students with their lessons, teachers, and resources. This robust, completely integrated K-12 solution combines a next-wave learning management system (LMS) and content management system (CMS) with an integrated student information system (SIS) and a full suite of communications tools.

Students can view daily and monthly schedules, access lessons, monitor progress through the online grade book (for students in grades 6 and above), communicate with teachers through email and access many online learning resources.

Parents can view students' schedules, assignments, and lessons, monitor students' progress using the online grade book and communicate with teachers via Webmail.

Administrators can track student progress, review online assignments and assessments, communicate quickly and effectively with students, parents and keep track of student and family interactions

Because much of the learning and record keeping is done online through Connexus, school administrators can monitor the effectiveness of instruction and ensure that students are making progress every day.

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas (Grades 9-12).

Describe the digital content that will be available to students, including any digital curriculum and supports that are available to teachers. If the district is using a content management system (CMS), please specify grades levels and subjects that the CMS will address.



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K-8 Virtual students will use Pearson Connexus. It is a robust, completely integrated K-8 solution that combines a next-wave learning management system (LMS) and content management system (CMS) with an integrated student information system (SIS) and a full suite of communications tools. The Pearson curriculum is aligned to the Arkansas State Standards, Common Core, and the Next Generation Science Standards. Courses consist of direct-instruction videos, rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. Pearson teachers can monitor student progress using the Gradebook and Reporting features built into the LMS. Each teacher will have an Educator Dashboard that allows for full program management by student, subject, teacher, grade level, assignment, etc. Pearson Program Manager and District Point of Contact have full access to the Reporting feature of the LMS as well.

Pearson Connexus Course Descriptions

Reading instruction is crucial in the overall success of students. Pearson Connexus uses rigorous language instruction that is aligned with the Science of Reading. Virtual teachers are following Pathway D to obtain proficiency in Science of Reading. Students in grades K-2 will be provided daily virtual SOR instructional lessons for a maximum of 45 minutes.

Every course in the Pearson Connexus catalog includes reading, writing, speaking & listening, and language components, and encourages students to communicate using academic vocabulary. While these may look different from course to course, students have opportunities in every lesson to practice and enhance their language skills.

Early literacy instruction in Pearson Connexus' language arts courses engages students in frequent phonemic awareness instruction and activities. Teachers work with Learning Coaches (parent/caretaker) as a team to support each student's education. Teachers also use real-time data from curricular tools to plan opportunities that may include reading to students, providing modeling and direct instruction, and helping students participate in interactive activities. Kindergartners engage daily in phonemic awareness activities. This instruction is reinforced by Learning Coaches, who are provided with detailed instructions for guiding students in skills such as:

- Segmenting words into syllables

- Isolating individual sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words

- Blending individual sounds to make words

- Obtaining and applying letter-sound relationships to words and word parts.

Phonemic awareness instruction builds in Grade 1 with continued practice of the aforementioned skills, as well as new focus on rhyme identification, syllabication, sound substitution, and long and short vowel sounds, among other skills. In Grade 1, avatars and multimedia presentations model how to pronounce and manipulate sounds and lead students through guided practice with Elkonin, or sound, boxes.

Guided practice continues into Grade 2. At this level, most students no longer need explicit instruction in phonemic awareness. At this level, teachers provide individualized phonemic awareness intervention and support on an as-needs basis. Phonics Instruction Phonics instruction differs from phonemic awareness in its focus on the systematic and predictable relationship between sounds and



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It focuses on the systematic and predictable relationship between sounds and their letters in written language – the alphabetic principle. Knowing these relationships will help students recognize familiar words accurately and automatically, and ‘decode’ new words. Students learn how to operationalize the alphabetic principle when letters, sounds, and connected texts are used in conjunction, with clear relationships among them. As research has shown, programs of phonics instruction are most effective when they are systematic, explicit, and begin in Kindergarten. The Connexus program begins phonics instruction in Kindergarten with a carefully selected set of letter-sound relationships that are organized into a logical sequence. Through course material and teacher support, students are explicitly taught these relationships. Student learning is further supported by Learning Coaches who receive detailed and user-friendly directions to support explicit teaching and reinforcement. Guided by the curriculum, young students work with their teacher and their Learning Coach, to use aids such as letter tiles and engage in other hands-on activities to make connections between letters and their sound. During LiveLesson sessions, teachers reinforce and assess student mastery of phonics skills. Explicit phonics instruction continues through Grade 3.

Each Language Arts course involves reading comprehension using texts of multiple genres that focus on a variety of topics and themes. Students analyze and respond to texts independently and use discussion boards. They have opportunities to write in different formats including short answers for text-dependent questions, research papers, and persuasive essays.

In math courses, students are given portfolio assignments to demonstrate understanding, and often use writing skills to explain their answers during instruction.

Science courses in Pearson Connexus contain a vast amount of informative texts to deepen student understanding of concepts. Students also are required to complete portfolios and write up lab reports.

The Pearson Connexus Social Studies curriculum involves reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources. Students will use these sources to support their responses to short answer questions and essays. Students are also assigned portfolios and projects such as writing a letter to a historical figure.

Additional Language Resources

students can also engage in synchronous instruction to enhance oral language skills. This involves teacher facilitated lessons, group projects, and class discussions. Interactivity is the key to synchronous instruction, allowing Students to:

- demonstrate their knowledge and practice their communication skills.

- ask questions to deepen their understanding.

- build relationships with their teacher and fellow classmates.

Teachers to

- engage students in discussions, problem solving, and group projects.

- focus class time on bridging skills gaps.

- build one-on-one relationships with students.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas courses are designed and written by subject matter experts (SME's) and who are Arkansas Certified teachers. Virtual Arkansas courses and content are designed and developed using the Arkansas State Standards, Quality Matters standards, and the National Standards of Quality of Online Courses as their foundation. This process includes an internal review of



LEA INSIGHTS

Online courses as their foundation. This process includes an internal review of the courses by Quality Matters certified online course reviewers. Courses are designed to be fully ready for student interaction and teachers have all the content needed to effectively provide support and instruction to students.

Virtual Arkansas provides support for new teachers through a 3-day orientation. This takes them through the logistics of the SIS, LMS, Zoom, protocols, parameters, and expectations of being a Virtual Arkansas teacher. VA has a google site that provides a wide variety of supports including intervention strategies for online learners, how to accommodate/modify for students with 504/IEP/LEP plans, creating spreadsheets to progress monitor, templates for communication with students, parents, and other stakeholders, etc.

VA teachers that are returning are all expected to go through Quality Matters asynchronous training that provides them with the K12 Rubric for Online Courses. This is also coupled with training for continuous professional growth and evaluation through the National Standards for Quality for Online Teaching that is blended with the Charlotte Danielson framework.

Additionally, there is summer training that addresses disciplinary literacy, more in-depth training on IEP/504/LEP support in an online environment, and will be launching a UDL course for VA teachers this summer. There is also embedded PD throughout the year through book studies (innovation focused), WhatIF Fridays (intervention focused), and action research all led by our teacher leaders (Collaborative Team Leaders, Innovation Team Leaders, and Intervention Team Leaders).

VA also uses an Instructional Model for Online Learning as a guide for PD both in small amounts and for longer PD sessions. They also have a #VAEdCamp when they return for PD in August. This is one day set aside for teachers to present based on proposals of innovative things they are doing in their practice that was submitted in the spring. It can be tool-based, instructional-based, or other.



What video communication software is required for any remote student? Please describe the video communication software the teacher will use to facilitate live conferences between two or more participants.



LiveLesson is the WDMESC K-8 Virtual option teachers and students will be utilizing for all synchronous learning opportunities. LiveLesson sessions provide for real-time direct instruction with individual and small groups of students using voice-over IP, chat, electronic whiteboard, and shared web surfing. These sessions allow teachers and students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, LiveLesson sessions may be recorded and saved for students to revisit at a later date if they had scheduling conflicts or want to refresh themselves on the topics covered.

LiveLesson allows teachers to monitor students' progress and invite those students who are struggling with a particular lesson or concept to a LiveLesson session targeted toward that content. In addition, if a subset of students is moving quickly through their lessons and demonstrating mastery of the lesson objectives through their assessments, invite them to a LiveLesson session to engage beyond the material covered in the lesson by sharing their writings and collaborating in small groups.

9-12 Students will be utilizing Zoom video conferencing software to participate in synchronous learning sessions with their teacher. The Zoom software is downloaded to the district provided device. The Virtual Arkansas teacher will utilize Zoom to facilitate synchronous sessions with students during scheduled Zoom sessions during the week. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule is placed in a common location within each course.

Describe the technology access (device and connectivity) that will be provided to each digital learning student to ensure each student receives a free public education.

Each 100% virtual student will be assigned a district device. Students who do not have reliable internet service may apply for a district-issued hotspot (if available) The district also has established 5 access points throughout the district. Wi-Fi will be available on each campus.

Student Supports

Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the wellness and safety (food security, physical, mental health, etc.) of students in a total remote setting. (This may be in-person, video communication, etc.). Identify supports available to assist students within the district.



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Pearson Virtual teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. Pearson uses a variety of methods of communication to do this and partners with schools to ensure students are cared for. When a situation arises where intervention is determined to be needed beyond what can be done virtually, Pearson will contact the partnering school including District Point of Contact to step in to provide intervention. Pearson teachers are trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Additionally, Pearson provides ongoing professional development to their teachers to support SEL strategies.

Pearson Connexus curriculum is currently undergoing a revision that incorporates SEL concepts directly into each unit of the curriculum. Outside of the curriculum, K-5 teachers focus daily homeroom lessons on those specific concepts. 6-8 full-time students will have the opportunity to attend advisory sessions at least once a month that address these as well. The professional development map also includes training sessions designed to develop staff's ability to ensure student well-being. For example, staff explored 5 core SEL competencies developed by CASEL and different social emotional strategies and resources that can be used in the virtual classroom.

Pearson also includes well-defined "Student in Distress" protocols and virtual teachers report any imminent or non-imminent threat concerns directly to the Program Management team. This allows our Program Management team to keep partner districts informed of any concerns with student well-being. Teachers and advisors are the eyes and ears for WDMESC K-8 Virtual Learning district partners. If a student is in physical, mental, or emotional stress, virtual staff is usually the first to know. Concerns are quickly and securely with our partner districts.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. Virtual Arkansas uses a variety of methods of communication to do this and partners with schools to ensure students are cared for. When a situation arises where intervention is determined to be needed beyond what can be done virtually, Virtual Arkansas will contact the partnering school including the facilitator and counselor to step in to provide intervention. Virtual Arkansas teachers are trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas provides ongoing professional development to their teachers to support SEL strategies.

Pangburn School District will offer breakfast and lunch delivery to virtual students living in the district. The district will offer the same services for mental health as on site students receive. OT and PT will be offered on site to students that qualify. Dyslexia, Gifted and Talented, and Special Education services will be provided by qualified staff members. The school nurse, school and family counselors, and migrant services will also be offered to students.



Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the academic and student engagement in a virtual setting. Describe the additional supports available for students struggling with engagement.



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Pangburn School District has access to the Pearson Connexus LMS to monitor students in real time. Pearson teachers will initiate intervention when a teacher determines a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. In cases where needed, Pearson teachers will involve the partnering school through the District Point of Contact. Pangburn School District will provide a District Point of Contact (DPC). This point of contact will monitor virtual student progress, welfare, and attendance through Pearson provided reports (gradebook, student performance to proficiency, mastery of objectives, user activity, test analytics, enrollments, student course enrollment, course details, and user details). The DPC will report any issues or concerns on academics, welfare, engagement, etc to the building principal to handle, based on school district policy. The DPC will also set up a regular communication schedule with the Pearson Program Manager regarding the progress of virtual students.

WDMESC and Pearson will provide training and support for the District Point of Contact. This training will include, but is not limited to, Pearson Customer Handbook, Pearson Program Manager, Pearson Connexus Management System, reports and data, etc. The District Point of Contact, Suzanne Louks, Middle School Principal.

9-12 virtual students have access to the Virtual Arkansas SIS and the CANVAS LMS to monitor students in real time. Virtual Arkansas teachers will initiate intervention when a teacher determines a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. In cases where needed, Virtual Arkansas will involve the partnering school through the facilitator, first. Virtual Arkansas will contact administrators if the initial intervention is not successful.

All students are provided with an academic advisor that is an employee of Pangburn Public Schools that will monitor student progress weekly and act as a point of contact between the students, parents, and the school.

All students will be expected to engage in their virtual learning. Following are steps Pangburn School District will take:

After 2 consecutive days of student inactivity, the teacher/mentor will notify the parent to communicate the concern and expectation that the student must participate in online learning on a daily basis to make academic progress. If direct contact is not made initially, a return email or phone call from the parent is required within 24 hours.

After 4 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, the teacher/mentor will report to the principal who will contact the parent.

After 6 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning, a conference will be held with the parent, teacher/mentor, and administrator to discuss academic progress and concerns.

After 10 consecutive days, if there is not a response from the parent, and/or the student does not actively participate in online learning the principal and SRO



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student does not actively participate in online learning; the principal and SRO will conduct a home visit.

Describe the Academic Response to Intervention plan for remote (virtual) students, including additional supports and personnel.



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Pearson’s virtual teachers have been trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions. Virtual teachers will make phone calls and share their phone numbers with students to offer support. Students may be asked to join LiveLessons and/or watch recorded sessions. Teachers may use office hours for interventions. Virtual teachers will also pull small groups or work 1:1 with students based on needs. Programs enrolling full-time students in grades 6–8 with Pearson teachers will receive an advisor in addition to subject-specific teachers. collaborate with teachers, students, and caretakers to ensure student success. If those are not successful, the virtual teacher will reach out to the partnering District Point of Contact regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. District will provide the support with the appropriate expert and deliver in the brick and mortar location or virtually, based on need. Students in need of response to intervention will be identified through recommendations from the virtual teacher, data such as iReady, STAR, Aspire, and grades.

Additionally, 9-12 Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions and, if those are not successful, reach out to the partnering school regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. Virtual Arkansas also has a PLC structure designed to address intervention with targeted intervention meetings that occur in the 4th and 7th weeks of the 9 weeks. If those are not successful, the virtual teacher will reach out to the partnering Virtual Arkansas Facilitator regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. District will provide the support with the appropriate expert and deliver in the brick and mortar location or virtually, based on need.

Describe the district or school's formative assessment plan to support student learning.



Pearson K-8 virtual teachers provide periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests to determine students' mastery of learning throughout the modules of a course that are aligned to the summative module assessments. There are varied methods of assessment utilized through the asynchronous course with open ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple choice, and hybrid assessments(open ended and multiple choice). Teachers also use weekly live LiveLesson to do informal formative checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks. Pearson teachers will use assessment data to enrich lessons or provide interventions via small groups/one-on-one. The Pearson Program Manager will ensure that District Point of Contact is aware of any concerns/issues revealed through data analysis. Pearson teachers will also make contact with parents and students concerning assessment data on an as needed basis. District Point of Contact will inform the building principal if there are any concerns and students may be required to receive interventions from a district interventionist. IReady data, the K-2 formative assessment tool, will be used to assess students and to create supports for students.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas courses have periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests to determine students' mastery of learning throughout the modules of a course that are aligned to the summative module assessments. There are varied methods of assessment utilized through the asynchronous course with open ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple choice, and hybrid assessments(open ended and multiple choice). Teachers also use weekly live Zoom meetings to do informal formative checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks. Virtual teachers will use assessment data to enrich lessons or provide interventions via small groups/one-on-one. Virtual Arkansas Teacher will make the facilitator aware of any concerns/issues revealed through data analysis. Facilitator will inform the building principal if there are any concerns and students may be required to received interventions from a district interventionist.

Describe how dyslexia screening and services will be provided to digital learning students.



Virtual students in K-2nd grade will be required to come on campus to take the required dyslexia initial screeners. Initial screeners are given throughout the school year (beginning, middle, and end.) Schedules for initial screeners will be communicated with parents. The initial screeners will be utilized to meet the state required screening in the following six areas:

- Phonological Awareness
- Sound/Symbol Recognition
- Alphabet Knowledge
- Decoding Skills
- Rapid Naming
- Encoding Skills

K-2 students demonstrating risk, or some risk, will be given Level I dyslexia screeners to identify targeted, instructional needs. Students in grades 3-12 experiencing difficulty in any of the six areas will receive a level 1 dyslexia screening to identify targeted, instructional needs.

The response to the intervention process will be used to address the targeted needs of students. If determined the virtual student needs Level 2 dyslexia screener, the screener will be administered on-site, following parent/guardian consent. Parents will be contacted concerning Level 2 Assessments for scheduling assessments and conferencing of level 2 assessment results. If it is determined that the student has functional difficulties in the academic environment due to characteristics of dyslexia, the necessary accommodations or equipment for the student shall be provided under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12165, as they existed on February 1, 2013, if qualified under the applicable federal law.

Take Flight will be utilized during interventions and will be delivered with fidelity as intended by the author of the program. Interventionist delivering interventions will have the required training before delivering interventions provided by Take Flight. Interventionist will provide explicit, direct, systematic, cumulative, multisensory and research-based interventions. Virtual interventions will be delivered by a trained interventionist via zoom. The intervention group size and weekly intervention minutes will be implemented as determined by Take Flight 45 minutes a day 5 times a week with no more than 6 students in a group. The interventionist will create schedules and identify targeted needs for each student within each group. Virtual learners will be engaged in synchronous, small, group dyslexia interventions via zoom. Interventionists will communicate with parents about the student's progress throughout the school year quarterly.

The school will ensure that all dyslexia law requirements will be met for virtual learners.



Describe how Gifted and Talented supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.



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Pangburn School District will follow all Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards with virtual and face-to-face students.

GT identification procedures will be the same for face-to-face and virtual students. Both virtual and face-to-face students may be referred for Gifted and Talented placement testing by any individual who has knowledge of the student(s) leadership and/or academic strengths including teachers, parents, administrators, community members, and/or self-referral. Upon referral, the GT Coordinator/Facilitator will initiate the evaluation process. After parental permission is obtained, parents will be notified of the date, time, and location for testing. Once all documentation has been collected, the GT placement committee will review and determine what placement is most appropriate for meeting the student's academic needs based on the available data.

K-2nd Grade

Pangburn School District will provide digital enrichment lessons by the licensed GT teacher through a virtual Google Meet for K-2 students four times a month for at least 30 minutes each lesson. Digital lessons and website resources will be accessible through Google Classroom. Printable materials may also be available to pick up as needed. Lessons will be accessible and available at any time with various ways for students and the licensed GT teacher to provide feedback. Students may contact the GT teacher via Google Classroom stream, email, or phone to ask questions and submit feedback.

Identified 3rd-6th Grade GT Students

Identified GT students that are full time virtual may join the onsite GT class or through a Google Meet weekly for 150 minutes. Virtual students have the opportunity to participate in class discussions and ongoing unit lessons. These will be provided in a synchronous manner to support and encourage social interaction with their identified gifted peers. A Google Classroom is used to share materials and various messages are posted in the classroom stream for all onsite and virtual students. Students will have the ability to reach out to the GT teacher for any special needs beyond what is covered in their class through Google Classroom, phone, or email.

Assignments for their gifted services will be "in place of" and not "in addition to" assignments required in the regular classroom, as written in the GT Program Approval Standards (pages 20-25).

Identified 7th-8th Grade GT Students

The Pangburn School District will provide identified gifted students in grades 7-8 the option to enroll in Honors classes in the core subject areas. Students will be using the Pearson Connexus curriculum to meet the 150 minute minimum requirement per the Arkansas GT Program Approval Standards. The certified GT teacher will maintain feedback from students and/or parents on the academic progress of the GT students. The certified GT teacher will address the student's social/emotional needs by conducting synchronous monthly meetings through Google Meet to allow virtual students to connect with peers. The GT coordinator will oversee and collect differentiation documentation required for Honors classes per the GT Program Approval Standards (pages 20-25).



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classes per the GT Program Approval Standards (pages 29-30).

9th-12th Grades

All current 9-12 grade Virtual Arkansas teachers will deliver the GT program option of Secondary Course Content (I.C, pg 21, GT Program Approval Standards). These teachers have completed Secondary Course Content training and will provide copies of training certificates and quarterly documentation of differentiation to participating districts, as required in the description of this program option in GT Program Approval Standards. Virtual Arkansas will ensure that any new hires will also complete this required training in order to provide this GT program option. Training and differentiation documentation will be obtained by contacting Kirsten Wilson, Virtual Arkansas Director of Curriculum and Instruction. An approved teacher of the gifted (licensed GT coordinator/GT teacher), employed by the participating school district maintains oversight of the students' activities at a minimum by collecting differentiation documentation on at least a quarterly basis and meeting with identified students monthly, as required by I.C.3 from GT Program Approval Standards.

The required AP courses will also be available to 11th-12th grade students through Virtual Arkansas. Rebecca Mills, Virtual Arkansas AP Coordinator, will provide documentation of required AP teacher training and copies of approved AP syllabi for each course the district provides.

Concurrent credit courses are also available to all 11th-12th grade students. These courses are provided through Arkansas State University Heber Springs, AR. The method of course delivery is determined by ASU-Heber. Some concurrent courses are virtual while others require face-to-face.



Describe how English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL / ESL) supports and services will be provided to digital learning students.

The district will ensure that all requirements of the District English Learner plan are met for on-site and remote learners, including ELPA21 screening and summative assessment provided by the district. Communication with families will be in a language and manner families will understand.

All ELL accommodations are determined by the districts' Language Proficiency and Assessment Committee (LPAC) and will be shared with the virtual platform providers who will ensure accommodations are provided so that English Learners have access to the core curriculum via providing integrated supports. The district will regularly communicate with the virtual platform provider regarding the ELL students' progress and make any necessary adjustments to needed accommodations and supports.

Describe how all Special Education services and supports will be provided to digital learning students, including the process for special education evaluations and conferences.



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Special Education services and supports will be determined by the student’s IEP committee. This committee will determine the method of delivery of services. Accommodations for K-8 virtual students will be provided through the Pearson Connexus LMS. Students will be scheduled on-site for special education evaluations. Conferences will be conducted virtually if possible. The district will ensure special education will be provided based on rules and regulations and provided by district teachers who are appropriately licensed.

Virtual Arkansas teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested. School district will upload the modification/accommodation sheet to the Student Information System (SIS) within the first 10 days of school or enrollment if enrollment occurs after school begins. Virtual Arkansas courses are designed in such a way that all applicable accommodations/modifications can be met in the course in conjunction with services provided by the partnering school. Students will be scheduled on-site for special education evaluations. Conferences will be conducted virtually if possible.

Programming and evaluations for virtual special education students will be identical to on site protocols. These protocols include: two week notification before meetings, on site meeting of all applicable IEP committee members, evaluation process completed within 60 days, and evaluation programming meeting will be held within 30 days of completion of the evaluation. All evaluations will be held onsite and coordinated with a special education teacher.

The district will ensure special education will be provided based on rules and regulations and provided by district teachers who are appropriately licensed.

Describe common and frequently used digital accommodations that the district or school has provided to general education teachers to assist students in digital learning classes.

Digital accommodations include but are not limited to: digital copies of notes, text to speech embedded in the learning platform, internet browser text reader, extended time on assignments, flexible assignments, and adaptive intervention resources.

Teacher Supports



Describe district and school supports to provide on-going digital content and instructional supports for teachers.

Pangburn School District will utilize Pearson Connexus as the digital content and instructional solution. Pearson provides their teachers with training for the usage of the Pearson Connexus LMS and virtual instructional strategies. Virtual teachers will follow Pearson's Professional Development Map. This annually produced map is in line with the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Professional Development offerings are approved by the Arkansas Department of Education and count towards the required 36 hours of Professional Development required for teachers each year. Additional continuous learning requirements for certification are generally met through graduate level course work and/or additional external training opportunities. Our teachers are following Pathway D to obtain proficiency in Science of Reading.

Pearson develops a yearly map of Professional Development and training session offerings. This map is in line with the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Trainings focus on developing virtual classroom management, digital pedagogy, data driven instruction, techniques for supporting social-emotional health of students in a virtual space, techniques for supporting diverse learning groups (exceptional students, gifted students, language learners), and techniques to support a mastery-based instructional model to ensure students have multiple pathways and opportunities to successfully master learning standards, Attached is an outline of some of the Professional Development sessions offered in the 2020-2021 school year.

Pearson OBL teachers have access to the School Support Help Desk that provides efficient and comprehensive support for the Pearson Connexus platform, for Teachers, Administrators and Staff. This should be the first point of contact for questions related to Pearson Connexus and/or curriculum.

The Help Desk staff is available by calling our 800 number, weekdays, from 8am to 8pm EST.

The Help Desk can assist with the following:

- Curriculum
- Functionality
- General How-Tos
- LiveLesson® accounts
- Permissions/Roles ● Reports
- Creating and Managing Courses

Pearson OBL teachers play an active role in reporting any potential curriculum issues to the Help Desk. They are provided with opportunities to explore all curriculums in advance and attend Pearson led training on curriculum revision, teacher expectations and resources throughout the school year.

Pearson Teaching Services works closely with our HR Partner to ensure that Pearson OBL teachers and advisors clearly understand our expectations. Employees also receive periodic feedback both formally and informally from their manager. This feedback may be written or verbal and is a direct result of



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their manager. This feedback may be written or verbal and is a direct result of observations completed throughout the school year. Employees receive a performance review in advance of their salary review date, which is a common date. Performance reviews are conducted annually at the end of the school year as well as mid-year in December or January.

Pearson OBL employees are expected to meet certain standards of work performance and conduct. Employees who do not meet the standards and expectations may be given the opportunity to improve performance and/or conduct through the disciplinary process. Managers will provide coaching and feedback regularly, guide employees through structured goals and metrics and will use performance improvement plans accordingly.

Grades 9-12 will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas as our digital content and digital instruction solution. Virtual Arkansas provides robust online teacher training and development for all new teachers entering the field of online teaching. All Virtual Arkansas teachers are provided both directed/scheduled and embedded professional development activities, book studies, and weekly collaborative teams. Virtual Arkansas provides a team of instructional and digital content experts for just-in-time support for all teachers. Virtual Arkansas also has a team of technology support specialists to assist with any technology issues.

Virtual Arkansas provides support for new teachers through a 3-day orientation. This takes them through the logistics of the SIS, LMS, Zoom, protocols, parameters, and expectations of being a Virtual Arkansas teacher. VA has a google site that provides a wide variety of supports including intervention strategies for online learners, how to accommodate/modify for students with 504/IEP/LEP plans, creating spreadsheets to progress monitor, templates for communication with students, parents, and other stakeholders, etc.

VA teachers that are returning are all expected to go through Quality Matters asynchronous training that provides them with the K12 Rubric for Online Courses. This is also coupled with training for continuous professional growth and evaluation through the National Standards for Quality for Online Teaching that is blended with the Charlotte Danielson framework.

Additionally, there is summer training that addresses disciplinary literacy, more in-depth training on IEP/504/LEP support in an online environment, and will be launching a UDL course for VA teachers this summer. There is also embedded PD throughout the year through book studies (innovation focused), WhatIF Fridays (intervention focused), and action research all led by our teacher leaders (Collaborative Team Leaders, Innovation Team Leaders, and Intervention Team Leaders).

VA also uses an Instructional Model for Online Learning as a guide for PD both in small amounts and for longer PD sessions. They also have a #VAEdCamp when they return for PD in August. This is one day set aside for teachers to present based on proposals of innovative things they are doing in their practice that was submitted in the spring. It can be tool-based, instructional-based, or other.





Identify the daily or weekly amount of time teachers will need to develop and plan for instruction based on options selected and digital supports provided. How will the district support teachers with digital content and planning?

Pearson will, at minimum, follow the guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher planning time (40 minutes per day). Pearson will provide instructional and digital content support for point-in-time support for all teachers. Pearson will provide professional development to aid personnel as they provide instruction to the students.

Grades 9-12 will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution. Virtual Arkansas teachers are given 200 minutes per week of preparatory time. Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize curriculum developed by Arkansas subject matter experts (SME's) aligned to Arkansas standards. Schools will provide a facilitator or facilitators, depending upon the number of students, to aid Virtual Arkansas teachers as they provide instruction to the students. Virtual Arkansas will provide training to the partnering school's facilitator(s) and ongoing support to facilitator(s) through Virtual Arkansas' Facilitator Coordinator.

District employees providing special services to virtual students will follow guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher's rights, planning, and lunch breaks.

District Supports

Describe how the district will ensure equitable access to opportunities for success for digital learner's needs (poverty, homelessness, migrant, foster care, and military connected students) A link (URL) to the district equity plan may be acceptable if it meets this criteria.

Pearson and Virtual Arkansas teachers will communicate with districts Point of Contact as student needs are identified. The district PoC will immediately (within 24 hours) identify and communicate with the appropriate liaison to address the student needs.

- Homeless liaison
- Migrant Coordinator
- School counselor
- School nurse
- Parent Center Coordinator
- ESL Coordinator



All students are expected to test (statewide summative assessments) onsite as per DESE guidance. Provide an overview of how the district may communicate to parents and test digital learning students at a district site.

Parents who do not wish to bring their students onsite to test will first be contacted by the testing coordinator. The coordinator will outline the safety protocols that are being implemented to ensure student safety during testing. Those safety protocols include testing in a large, open area such as an auditorium, adequately spaced tables at least six feet apart, seating charts, encouraging students and staff to wear masks, and disinfecting tables and equipment between testing sessions. Bathroom breaks will be taken before testing in small groups to maintain social distancing. Cohort groups will be tested separately at morning and afternoon sessions to also allow for adequate social distancing. Parents will be allowed to visit the testing site upon request. Parents who still do not wish to bring their students for onsite testing will be referred to the building principal. If a parent refuses to bring their student to testing they will not be allowed to participate in the district's digital learning program the following school year. These tests will be conducted and monitored by the school/district personnel. All testing data will be shared by the school/district for analysis by Pearson and Virtual Arkansas personnel.

Virtual Arkansas requires trained proctors for major assessments. Pangburn School District's plan for students to take proctored assessments includes: Major assessments given by Virtual Arkansas will be proctored by the Virtual Arkansas facilitator at the district.

Pangburn School District will use student advisors to communicate all summative testing dates/plans with students and parents per instructions from the district test coordinator. These plans will also be made known to the virtual teacher. Onsite summative testing will be provided to students in a safe, small group setting during the testing window.



Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option(s) and the fidelity of implementation as described within this application.

Pearson will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents, schools, and students. Pearson will analyze student data such as common formative assessments, LMS work, and school/district specific assessments used for formative and summative purposes in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas provides the partnering school with access to the SIS and CANVAS LMS. Facilitators are trained to pull grades from the SIS weekly to monitor student progress. Additionally, parents can access student grades through the Canvas App. Teachers send weekly reports via the SIS messaging that is sent to both student and parent email.

The School District will monitor the effectiveness of the overall program through stakeholder surveys, assessment data, student engagement, student academic progress, and Ready for Learning Committee conversations and analysis of data. Committee will evaluate the program monthly and meet with Pearson Program Manager, parents, Virtual Arkansas, etc and make adjustments as needed.

Describe how the teacher(s) will engage families into the digital learning process. (District may link the District Engagement Plan if digital learning is included. The plan must address how the district will support parents/students with digital tools and resources)



Digital Learning Orientation: Parents and students will walk through how to log into their learning management system. The district will provide a link on the web page with parent resources for digital learning. Parents will walk through how to access the information on the web page and handouts with the information. The website houses training videos and how-to guides for parents. Parents will have access to the school district technologist (IT). Parents and students can schedule a meeting with the IT on campus or call and request technology support over the phone. Through the Parent/Observer role, K-8 caretakers can view any and all student/teacher interaction in a read-only capacity. Parents have access to the student's gradebook, coursework, and any announcements and communication from the district or teachers.

9-12 Virtual Arkansas provides parent/guardian informational webinars throughout the school year for families of students in Virtual Arkansas courses. Virtual Arkansas teachers communicate course and grade updates weekly to parents/guardians with provided email addresses. Parents/guardians are also given access to the Parent Canvas App which allows them to monitor their students activity and grades within the course. Family engagement is highly valued and encouraged throughout the year by providing regular Virtual Arkansas updates, emails from teachers, just in time meetings at the local level, and up to date information on the Virtual Arkansas website, including the Virtual Arkansas Parent Guide (linked here).

Families of virtual students will also receive home to school communication, just as the families of on-site students. The School District will communicate with parents of virtual students through telephone, home visits, FaceBook, and school webpage.

All virtual families are invited to school-based family engagement programs.

Provide the URL to evidence of the local school board's approval of the waiver request(s).

<https://5il.co/s3sm>

Provide a URL to evidence of stakeholder feedback regarding the waiver request(s) and the district communication plan regarding digital learning program(s).

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/126n4lZVhLD3L0KzpVkJAcMOqQg9X2Df>



Policies

Please provide a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students. <https://5il.co/t2f5>

Please provide a link (URL) to the discipline policy for digital learning students. <https://5il.co/t2f9>

Please provide a link (URL) to the grading policy for digital learning students. <https://5il.co/t2f7>

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