



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: Reviewed

Jackson Co. School District (3405000)

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 #: 3405000
Superintendent: Chester Shannon
Email: cshannon@bulldogs.k12.ar.us
Phone: (870) 349-2232
Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 3 Years
(School year 2021-2022 to 2024-2025)

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

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
3405019 - Swifton Middle School 3405024 - Tuckerman Elementary School	K-12	Asynchronous Synchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
3405025 - Tuckerman High School				



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>Jackson County School District is requesting a waiver on attendance for K-12.</p> <p>K-6 Tri-Regional Virtual Plan (JCSD) All instruction will be synchronous, and students will be required to meet daily. However, JCSD may determine that the needs of a student with extenuating circumstances would be better met with asynchronous instruction. In these cases, attendance will be taken through the evidence of completed assignments. Also, attendance will be taken by students attending synchronous zoom sessions by the virtual teacher. Monitoring of synchronous and asynchronous interaction will occur on a daily basis, but a waiver is needed for the manner in which attendance is calculated.</p> <p>7-12 Virtual Arkansas In the online environment, students assume more responsibility for keeping up with the course requirements. It is critical that students access and interact with the online content on a daily basis and participate in the scheduled live interactive Zoom sessions. If a student is absent from a digital learning class, the student is responsible for making up the missed assignments. When students' put-off accessing the course content, they soon discover that they are behind and then may not be able to satisfy the course requirements to pass a class. There will be times when students have to miss class for locally scheduled activities. If a school has scheduled an event that will interfere with a Virtual Arkansas course, please reinforce with the students the need to access the course content so they do not fall behind. Students absent from Virtual Arkansas classes are responsible for making up the missed assignments. Facilitators will not be responsible for reporting attendance to the Virtual Arkansas teacher, but they may need to provide this information to the appropriate individual at their schools. Teachers monitor student progress and if a student is not accessing the course content on a consistent basis. the school will be notified by the teacher.</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.
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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.
Class Size Number of students:	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17- 812(a)(2)	<p>K-6 TRVP (JCSD) Jackson County is requesting a waiver for class size based on the following student teacher ratio. The student:teacher ratio will be 30:1 (K-2) and 50:1 (3-6).</p> <p>If TRVP provides P.E., a waiver will be needed (per Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load 3.02.1)</p> <p>7-12 Virtual Arkansas Students will be enrolled in VA Classes. Students will be 100% virtual, therefore a waiver for class size will not be necessary. Virtual learning is regarded as “Large Group” (Distance and Digital Learning Rule 6.07). The student:teacher ratio will be more than 30:1.</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:</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>	1-A.5	<p>DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</p>	6-17-812	District is not requesting this waiver.
<p>Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	



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>K-6 JCSD</p> <p>All students learn at a different pace, based on age as well as background. Virtual learning allows the flexibility for class times to be conducted based on age and appropriate time limits. Six-hour instructional day guidelines will exceed age-appropriate screen time limits. A waiver for the 6-hour instructional day will be utilized to provide instruction within the parameters of the recommended screen times.</p>
				<p>7-12 Virtual Arkansas</p> <p>A waiver for the six hour instructional day is being requested. Research shows students in grades 7-12 benefit from a shortened instructional day when learning virtually. The daily schedules for students will include 6 hours of learning; however, it may not take students the entire allotted time to successfully engage with the learning.</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.
Clock Hours	1-A.2			<p>7-12 Virtual Arkansas</p> <p>All students learn at a different pace, based on age as well as background. Virtual learning allows the flexibility for class times to be conducted based on age and appropriate time limits. The standard for clock hours will not apply. Based on the per period minutes for classes in virtual Arkansas based on their attendance.</p>
Recess (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.3	DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index, Section 7.11	6-6-102(a)(5)	<p>K-6 JCSD (TRVP)</p> <p>A waiver is being requested for the requirement to provide forty (40) minutes of recess, due to instruction being 100% virtual.</p> <p>7-12 Virtual Arkansas</p> <p>N/A for grades 7-12. Virtual Arkansas does provide PE and Health as an offering for 7-12 Grade students.</p>

Digital Model



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.



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

The K-6 JCSD will primarily be a synchronous model for K-6 core instruction. The synchronous model will allow for structured learning, increased interaction, and direct instruction for virtual students. This model will also allow for improved student-teacher relationships and targeted learning for all students. Students will be expected to attend live synchronous zoom classes daily. Tri-regional teachers will be proficient in the Science of Reading and focus on the bottom of the rope instruction of phonological awareness, decoding and sight recognition.

An asynchronous option will be made available to students with extenuating circumstances and the discretion of the Jackson County School District.. The virtual lessons will be made available to asynchronous students on a weekly basis. Circumstances might include students with behavior or other health impairments.

Teachers:

Teachers are expected to upload all resources and materials at least one day prior to the virtual lessons. Teachers will teach daily virtual lessons for core instruction for students in the synchronous environment. virtual lessons will be recorded so students can revisit the lessons for a refresher, or if the student missed a virtual lesson.

Teachers will remind students to attend virtual lessons, pull small groups, and/or work 1:1. These requests will be based on student needs identified by robust grading practices. Teachers will be available for additional support during their office hours so that synchronous and asynchronous students (and their parents/caregivers) can communicate with the teachers as the need arises. Turnaround time for responses from teachers is a maximum of one business day. All teachers will have daily designated office time for support.

Students:

Regular attendance to the virtual lessons is crucial to the academic growth of the students; therefore, it is expected that students will attend and complete 178 days of instructional content. Days missed due to illness or other events will be made up through small group instruction, asynchronous lesson review, or other methods deemed to be in the best interest of the student. If additional time or support is needed, the student and/or caregiver should contact the teacher during their office hours

Asynchronous students are expected to follow the policy set by the Jackson County School District regarding the standards for completion of work in a timely manner.

All students have a variety of options for connecting synchronously with our teachers--email, office hours, etc. Students also have their teachers' school phone numbers.



LEA INSIGHTS

K-12 Virtual Arkansas

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. Students of JCSD must abide by their Virtual Arkansas instructors zoom requirements. 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.

K-12 JCSD

If a student misses a class assignment or test, he/she is responsible for turning in the assignment or for taking the test on the day he/she returns to virtual instruction. If the assignment or test was announced during the absence, the student should make arrangements with the teacher on the day of his/her return to finish an assignment or take a test as soon as possible, but not to exceed three (3) days, unless special arrangements are made with the teacher and principal. All the responsibility for make-up work is left to the student. Communication between virtual Arkansas and the facilitator at JCSD will monitor student achievement through progress monitoring of grades every three weeks. Progress reports go home to all students every three weeks.



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.

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

The K-6 JCSD will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through Google Classroom, Google Meet, and Zoom. The program will provide instruction using a model that is primarily synchronous with an asynchronous option. Students will engage in digital coursework through Google Classroom. All students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual lessons sessions for synchronous learning with the teacher. All virtual lessons sessions will be recorded using Zoom, housed in Digital Sandbox, and linked in Google Classroom so that asynchronous students will have access to the digital content. All learning and instruction will be virtual.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

7-12 JCSD will utilize online virtual remote learning through Virtual Arkansas. Virtual Arkansas utilizes a synchronous and asynchronous approach or true blended model 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.

K-12 JCSD

Virtual students will be notified of all field trips, academic competitions, and other special enrichment functions that occur in the onsite learning environment by the JCSD notification system utilizing Facebook, push notifications on the JCSD App, SMS, email, and Twitter.

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.



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

The K-6 JCSD delivery of instruction for K-6 students will be 100% virtual/remote. K-6 TRVP will provide Arkansas certified teachers of record for virtual learners. The K-6 teachers will be solely dedicated to remote instruction. The K-6 TRVP will have Arkansas certified teachers as the instructors for all course content via Google Classroom CMS. This program is a model of synchronous, targeted instruction for course content and enrichment, with an asynchronous option.

K-6 TRVP teachers will work in tandem with districts' point-of-contact personnel for their virtual students. These designees will be referred to as the Campus Connection Coaches (CCCs). Training and support will be provided to the TRVP teachers and district CCCs throughout the year.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Grades 7-12 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. Virtual Arkansas provides training and support for facilitators via the Facilitator Coordinator. This model is a true blended model with synchronous targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and activities.

Responsibilities of the CCCs may be to:

- *Monitor progress in real-time,
 - *Serve as an ambassador for the district,
 - *Advocate for their students and families,
 - *Serve as a support seeker,
 - *Serve as the first line of communication and contact for parents and students for the district,
 - *Provide information technology support, and overall help,
 - *Partner with the virtual staff to provide support for the students,
 - *Enroll students, coordinate orientation activities, facilitate on-site sessions, and build relationships with families,
 - *Address issues that tend to be "high touch"
- Act as the local "face" of the virtual campus and bridge interactions between the virtual campus and district

Mrs. Heather Gage, JCSD Instructional Facilitator will serve as the K-6 CCC. Mrs. Bridgette Huckabee will serve as the 7-12 CCC.



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



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 teachers will provide daily, synchronous instruction for virtual students. In cases where asynchronous instruction is required due to extenuating circumstances or absence. The teacher will make contact with the virtual student concerning the asynchronous content. It is highly encouraged that synchronous and asynchronous students attend and/or view all virtual lessons sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend virtual lessons are more successful than students who do not attend virtual lessons sessions. Virtual lessons 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 daily sessions allow teachers and synchronous students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, virtual sessions will be recorded and saved for asynchronous students to view using a flexible schedule based on personalized student need. Synchronous students may also revisit these recorded sessions at a later date if they have scheduling conflicts or want to refresh themselves on the topics covered.

Teachers, parents, and students will be able to communicate using Google Classroom, CMS or via email. Teachers are expected to monitor students and provide timely grading and robust feedback on assignments for students, parents/caregivers, and District CCCs. Teachers will communicate regularly with the district CCCs and provide access to their students' progress so that the CCCs can fulfill their responsibilities in helping to ensure student success.

Teachers will send a Welcome message via Gmail and/or Google Classroom message prior to the course start date.

Teachers will complete the grading of assessments within 2-3 business days

Teachers will complete the grading of portfolio items within 4-5 business days

Communication between virtual teachers, parents, and students will be addressed via age-appropriate means, such as Gmail and/or Google Classroom messages. All student and teacher communication is captured and logged. Students and parents can request meeting times through the Gmail and/or Google Classroom messages, pop into virtual lessons, or meet during the teacher's set office hours. Virtual teachers will also pull small groups or work 1:1 with students based on needs.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

For students utilizing Virtual Arkansas 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. 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?

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 will not utilize district waivers for class size. The following student: teacher ratios will be followed:

Core Courses

Early Elementary School (K-2): The average student-to-teacher ratio for early elementary school core courses is (30:1).

Upper Elementary School (3-6): The average student-to-teacher ratio for upper elementary school core courses is (50:1).

Non-Core subjects will be integrated into the elementary instructional day.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Class size waivers are not being requested. The Virtual Teacher 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. 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.



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?

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 will not utilize district waivers for teaching load. The following student-teacher ratios will be followed:

Core Courses

Early Elementary School (K-2): The average student-to-teacher ratio for early elementary school core courses is (30:1).

Upper Elementary School (3-6): The average student-to-teacher ratio for upper elementary school core courses is (50:1).

Teaching load will not exceed 150 students.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Teaching Load waivers are not being requested. The Virtual Teacher 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.

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.

Technology / Platforms

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

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 Students will use Google Classroom as the CMS. At home or in an alternate location, with internet access, this user-friendly online system connects students with their lessons, teachers, and resources.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas grades 7-12.

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.

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 will use a curriculum that has been developed in conjunction with DESE that is based on Arkansas Academic Standards and current state initiatives such as Science of Reading, AR Math QuEST, and GPS. Google Classroom will be utilized to deliver K-6 core content. Courses consist of direct instruction, videos, rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. The Virtual option teachers can monitor student progress using the grading and monitoring tools available in Google Classroom, as well as 3rd party data reporting tools that operate with Google Classroom content.

Reading instruction is crucial in the overall success of students. Core literacy instruction will be aligned to the Science of Reading and use an approved core program. Resources will be aligned to state initiative goals and will include teacher materials and/or programs that will support virtual instruction. Some items used may include the digital version of the Wilson Reading System, Heggerty Digital Curriculum, and other more traditional resources such as decodable texts and reader class sets. Materials may also include manipulatives such as pointers, markers, dry-erase boards, and counters.

Teachers will collaborate with JCSD to purchase the needed instructional materials, programs, and teacher supplies.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Virtual Arkansas provides access to 139 courses in grades 7-12 which 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 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.

The digital content will be available to students within a platform that provides creation, publication, and student progress tracking capabilities. Students will have access to age-appropriate, engaging lessons, and tools that support learning, including text to speech, audio and translation, text and picture dictionaries, and more. Digital content combines direct-instruction videos featuring expert, virtual teachers with rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage students and ensure subject-area mastery. The digital content features self-paced learning, which allows students to spend more time on what they need and less on the content they've already mastered. If a student needs additional support to master a learning goal, the digital instruction is designed to provide point-in-time resources and support.

The digital content gives Virtual Teachers the resources they need to close learning gaps, plan lessons, execute goals, measure success, and intervene to help students grow. Virtual teachers receive initial and ongoing training on the



LEA INSIGHTS

help students grow. Virtual teachers receive initial and ongoing training on the digital content which includes, navigating the digital content, customizing courses and assessments, troubleshooting, adding activities, planning instruction, and designing interventions. Virtual facilitators receive initial and ongoing training to support the students assigned to them. Virtual teachers and virtual facilitators will have ongoing support from the Virtual Arkansas Facilitator Coordinator, Virtual Arkansas Specialists and Administration, and the Northeast Arkansas Cooperative..

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.



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K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 Teachers and students will be utilizing ZOOM/Google Meet for all synchronous learning opportunities. These sessions allow teachers and students to interact with one another in real-time in a virtual classroom. In addition, Zoom/Google Meet sessions may be recorded and saved for students who are asynchronous or those who need to revisit at a later date.

Zoom/Google Meet allows teachers to monitor students' progress and invite those students who are struggling with a particular lesson or concept to a Zoom/Google Meet 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 Zoom/Google Meet session to engage beyond the material covered in the lesson by sharing their writings and collaborating in small groups.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

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.

Zoom provides a suite of teaching and learning features which include recording, polling, break-out rooms, whiteboard with collaborative and annotation tools, chat, translations, screen sharing, hand raising, reaction emoticons, and remote control option. The remote control option is where the Virtual Teacher is given permission to take control of the user's computer screen to provide navigation and technical support. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule is placed in a common location within each course and communicated with students and virtual facilitators.



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.

K-12 JCSD

Each 100% virtual student will be assigned a district device. Students who do not have reliable internet service will be provided with a district-issued hotspot.. Students who are in need of a district-issued hotspot will email the CCC to request a hotspot. Also, wireless internet is available on each campus from parking spots closest to each of the TES 3-4th grade wing, SMS building, and THS Gym front parking lot and student parking lot.

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.



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

Teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. Google Classroom 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 JCSD will be notified. Teachers are trained to report maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Anytime absences behavior or assignments are not turned in, the virtual teacher will notify JCSD so the principal, resource officer, CCC and counselor can check on the well being of the student. Food pick up will be made available to all virtual learners from 11:30-12:00 in the Home Ec parking lot.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

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 JCSD 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. The virtual teacher will provide the on site counselor with information of a potential need of a student. The counselor will then meet with the student and guardians to formulate a plan to meet the mental and physical well being of all virtual students. Food pick up will be made available to all virtual learners from 11:30-12:00 in the Home Ec parking lot.

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.



LEA INSIGHTS

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

The school has access to Google Classroom in order to monitor students in real-time. Teachers will initiate intervention when it is determined a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. Quarterly assessments will be utilized to identify struggling students. Students who demonstrate lack of achievement will participate in conversations with teachers to arrive at solutions to reduce the lack of progress. In cases where needed, teachers will involve the partnering school through the CCC. The facilitator will notify the CCC of absences, non-engagement, missing assignments to help ensure that all virtual students are engaged and getting the best possible education.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

JCSD will provide a CCC. This point of contact will monitor virtual student progress, welfare, and attendance through Google Classroom provided reports (gradebook, student performance to proficiency, mastery of objectives, user activity, test analytics, enrollments, student course enrollment, course details, and user details). The CCC will report any issues or concerns on academics, welfare, engagement, etc to the building principal to handle, based on school district policy. The CCC will also set up a communication schedule with the virtual teachers regarding the progress of virtual students.

The Virtual option will provide training and support for the Campus Connection Coach. Appropriate training will be provided by the K-6 TRVP. The Campus Connection Coach is Heather Gage.

7-12 JCSD

7-12 JCSD has 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 the administrator or request the administrator to be contacted if the initial intervention is not successful.



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

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

Teachers will be trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions. . Virtual teachers will make phone calls to offer support. Students may be asked to join additional intervention sessions and/or watch recorded sessions. Teachers may use office hours for interventions. Tutoring or other 1:1 services will be provided by district interventionists and support will be provided to ensure academic progress. If those interventions are not successful, the virtual teacher will reach out to the partnering CCC regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 Interventions. The digital interventions used for virtual students are the same ones used for on-site interventions. Interventions for virtual students will have the opportunity for onsite or virtual interventions. Those Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions will be synchronous and taught by the district Dyslexia interventionist and Math interventionist at the request of the TRVP teacher

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Additionally, Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained in the RTI process to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier I and II interventions and, if those are not successful, reach out to JCSD regarding additional Tier II or Tier III 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.



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

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

Formative assessment will be used to support learning. For example, periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests aligned to the summative assessments. A variety of assessments will be utilized through the course with open-ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple-choice, and hybrid assessments (open-ended and multiple choice). Assignments will be aligned to SoR, QuEST, and GPS, and will include recognized assessments such as DIBELS, PAST, etc.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

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 both 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 to do informal formative checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks. These strategies of formative assessment, both formal and informal, are utilized in order to guide the RTI process and methods of intervention.

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



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 provides accessibility tools to support students with Dyslexia. Phonological awareness and phonics strategies will be embedded in synchronous daily lessons to improve fluency for dyslexic students. The curriculum used by the virtual teachers will meet the criteria used for dyslexia interventions. If the virtual teacher has a concern about a student, the CCC will be notified and the student will be brought on-site to be screened for dyslexia. Once a student is identified, the virtual learner will have interventions by the dyslexia interventionist using the Take Flight program. Dyslexia screening will be onsite for K-2 students. JCSD will ensure dyslexia law requirements are met for all K-12 virtual learners.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Virtual Arkansas provides accessibility tools to support students with Dyslexia including ReadSpeaker that will read any text in the course to students. Virtual Arkansas will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual 504 Plan uploaded into the SIS by partnering school. If the virtual teacher has a concern about a student, the dyslexia interventionist will be notified and the student will be brought on-site to be screened for dyslexia. Once a student is identified, the virtual learner will have interventions by the dyslexia interventionist using the Take Flight program. JCSD will ensure dyslexia law requirements are met for all K-12 virtual learners.

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



LEA INSIGHTS

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 teachers will embed enrichment activities into core content. Education Cooperative GT Specialists will have input in the development of curriculum in order to ensure rigorous activities are embedded in core content courses. K-2 Gifted and Talented will be provided by the cooperative teacher.

Referrals - The District Gifted and Talented Coordinator will solicit information from the Virtual Teachers needed for the Gifted and Talented identification process.

JCSD will work collaboratively with the parent to ensure that GT requirements are met to fulfill the needs of the virtual learners.

JCSD will ensure all GT approval standards are met for all virtual learners.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

All current 7-12 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 following AP courses will also be available to 10-12 grade students through Virtual Arkansas: (list courses available and districts would only include those that they will utilize for their students). Rebecca Mills, Virtual Arkansas AP Coordinator, will provide documentation of required AP teacher training and copies of approved AP syllabus for each course the district provides.

The following concurrent credit courses are available to 8-12 grade students through Virtual Arkansas: (list courses available and districts would only include those they will utilize for their students).

The participating district will ensure all requirements from GT Program Approval Standards will be maintained for virtual services.

Referrals - The District Gifted and Talented Coordinator will solicit information from the Virtual Teachers needed for the Gifted and Talented identification



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from the virtual teachers needed for the gifted and talented identification process.

All requirements from the Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards will be met for virtual students.

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



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 Teachers will provide all accommodations and modifications as stated on LPACS. Conferences for students served through LPACs will be held via phone conferencing, zoom, or onsite as warranted.

JCSD Plan

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. Conferences for students served through LPACs will be held via phone conferencing, zoom, or onsite as warranted. The district will ensure LPAC Plan requirements are met for virtual learners by requesting examples of student work where accommodations have been provided. This will be requested by K-6 JCSD (TRVP) as well as 7-12 Virtual Arkansas.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Provides accessibility tools to support ESOL/ESL and will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual LEP uploaded into the SIS by partnering schools. The district will provide student plans to Virtual Arkansas and have an open line of communication regarding adherence to accommodations/modifications on LPACs. The district will ensure LPAC Plan requirements are met for virtual learners by requesting examples of student work where accommodations have been provided. This will be requested by K-6 JCSD (TRVP) as well as 7-12 Virtual Arkansas.

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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K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

Teachers at Tri -Regional Virtual Program will provide all accommodations and modifications as stated on district-developed IEPs and 504 Plans. They will participate in zoom conferences, phone calls and emails as needed in the capacity of a general education teacher. Teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Virtual Arkansas teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested. 7-12 JCSD 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.

Special Education Programs delivered in a virtual learning environment will follow all IDEA/Arkansas Rules and Regulations for Special Education. Information discussed during meetings will be documented and placed in the student's file. All modifications/accommodations will be provided according to students IEP. During virtual learning, students who have been identified as needing special education services will be served through Zoom, or other communication platforms. Based on progress monitoring data, students needing Special Education Services may be required to meet face-to-face with district special education staff.

Virtual Teachers use curriculum and instructional strategies that include the following evidence-based practices, including Universal Design for Learning, which is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities:

1. Provide explicit instruction,
2. Model learning strategies,
3. Make instruction accessible,
4. Provide tools to support learning, provide appropriate feedback, and capitalize on technology.

The digital curriculum and learning management system provides accommodations for Special Education students and families. These accommodations include addressing multiple learning preferences, accommodations for assessments, video captions/transcripts, color and contrast considerations, read-aloud and translation tools, multiple means of representation of key concepts (verbal, concrete manipulative, numerical, graphical, and symbolic.)

For Special Education students with language challenges, Virtual Teachers can enable Canvas' embedded ReadSpeaker tool, a robust language-support, feature. This tool allows students to hear on-screen text read aloud. Students and families will be supported in using the tools during asynchronous learning through the initial course orientation and the Virtual Teacher will facilitate the usage of the tools, as needed, during synchronous learning.

K-12 ICSD



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In an effort to prevent uninterrupted learning, students receiving special education services will be provided means of instruction through alternative methods, individualized to meet their educational needs.

Students receiving related services through a contracted service provider, i.e., Occupational/Physical Therapy, will be contacted on the method type of service delivery on an individualized basis. Therapy services will be provided through various means that are individualized to the specific needs of the student. Examples of therapy options: Teletherapy and Zoom.

IEP Services will be provided by the school building from which the student is assigned. Evaluations will be scheduled or on-site evaluations to be conducted. Students will be required to be on school campus(es) in order for formal evaluations to be conducted, by licensed personnel and/or Related Services Personnel (i.e., Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and/or Mental Health/Counseling Services). Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students receiving special education services will be required to provide data, when requested to meet the data requirements for the evaluation if warranted. Conferences that can be held via alternative means, such as telephone or zoom will be completed with parent(s)/guardian(s) asked to fill in required due process paperwork in-person at a scheduled date and time at the school building(s); or parents may be requested to attend due process conferences in-person, through socially-distanced means in order to meet the needs of the rules and regulation requirements.



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.

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

All Virtual Teachers receive training on and have access to digital software/resources to ensure courses are adaptable to include interactive video tutorials, narrated text, concept maps, digital slide presentations, and usage of images. Interventions may be provided using online tools and assistive technology. Online tools and assistive technology will be available to Virtual general education teachers

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

All Virtual Teachers receive training on and have access to digital software/resources to ensure courses are adaptable to include interactive video tutorials, narrated text, concept maps, digital slide presentations, and usage of images. Interventions may be provided using online tools and assistive technology. Online tools and assistive technology will be available to Virtual general education teachers.

Virtual Arkansas courses meet the guidelines of IDEA and Section 504. All courses are evaluated for accessibility using Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas utilizes embedded tools including ReadSpeaker to provide for students who need content read aloud. Virtual Arkansas also follows the Universal Design for Learning Principles to eliminate both visible and invisible barriers to learning.

Teacher Supports

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



LEA INSIGHTS

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 will address the support for professional development for teachers and will address how this support aligns with the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Professional Development will be approved by the Arkansas Department of Education and counts 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. Through direct access to content specialists and Team Digital Specialists at each Co-Op, continuous professional development will be available to all teachers.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

7-12 JCSD will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for 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.



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?

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

K-6 will follow the guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher planning time (40 minutes per day, minimum).

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

7-12 JCSD will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution. The Virtual Arkansas teachers will be scheduled with a minimum of two hundred (200) minutes each week for each teacher to schedule time for conferences, instructional planning, and preparation. 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. Prior to the start of school, Virtual Arkansas will support Virtual Teachers with digital content and planning through training on the primary digital content. This training includes guides for recommended pacing, adding supplemental content, and navigating the platform. This digital content and planning component will be supported by Virtual Arkansas

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.

District-Wide

The local school will provide all appropriate testing and support services for all students. Virtual teachers will provide the appropriate testing data, classroom instructional services, as outlined by the appropriate documentation (i.e., IEP, 504 Plans), and accommodations as necessary.

Jackson County School District - GEPA Statement - The Jackson County School District ensures that every student, teacher, and/or employee has the support necessary to be successful in any program in which they choose to participate, regardless of race, nationality, gender or socioeconomic status. The district also ensures that barriers and/or challenges for successful participation do not occur, even if it requires additional supplements to budgeting, curriculum, or program standards. Systems are put in place and modified, when warranted, to make sure every student/teacher/employee has an equal opportunity for success.

At this time, the Jackson County School District does not have any private schools located within its district boundaries, warranting consultation.

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.



K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

All virtual students will be required to participate in statewide summative and school/district required testing (NWEA MAP, Istation, etc..) at the building/district site. These tests will be conducted and monitored by the school/district personnel. All testing data will be shared by the school/district for analysis. Virtual staff will participate by communicating with parents and students via social media, email, phone calls and zoom sessions as needed, to ensure a smooth assessment. Students at JCSD will receive notifications via our social media outlets and our school alert system. The principal will persistently work with the parent to ensure to provide a safe environment for the student to test.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

Virtual Arkansas requires trained proctors for major assessments.

K-12 JCSD's plan for testing includes: virtual students will report to each campus office to check in. Students will then be escorted to the designated testing area set up by the testing coordinator. Mandated assessments include, but are not limited to ACT, ACT Aspire, IReady, Dibels and DSA. Parents & students will be notified via the district's social media accounts and school alert system. The principal will persistently work with the parent to ensure to provide a safe environment for the student to test.

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.



LEA INSIGHTS

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

The school will utilize students' formative assessments, parent communications, conferences, surveys, students' summative data, and district collaboration to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents, schools, and students. Monitoring the academic progress of each virtual student with three week academic progress reports. Surveying parents every nine weeks about the virtual program and the development of their student. JCSD will use the surveys to help each virtual learner reach their full potential.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

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 7-12 virtual option will be closely monitored for effectiveness by the District Superintendent, District Central Office Staff, and Building Principal in partnership with Virtual Arkansas, and the Executive Director of Virtual Arkansas, along with Virtual Arkansas Academic Leadership team. Components that affect student achievement are addressed below.

Monitoring the academic progress of each virtual student with three week academic progress reports. Surveying parents every nine weeks about the virtual program and the development of their student. JCSD will use the surveys to help each virtual learner reach their full potential.



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)

K-6 JCSD (TRVP)

All students and caregivers will be required to attend an orientation either face-to-face or virtually prior to the start of the school year. The district will also provide technology training and support, as well as parent/teacher conferences. Virtual teachers will provide parents and/or families access to their child's Google Classroom assignments and announcements, and parents will have access to the student's grades.

Districts will provide support in the form of technology(chromebook/tablet), instructional materials and supplies, and grade updates.

7-12 Virtual Arkansas

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 (https://www.virtualarkansas.org/293342_2).

Regarding the attendance, discipline and grading policies for virtual learners, they will follow and mirror the JCSD student handbook.

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b_ZGpuRl4EMO4oo4glj0EIU-vmmuZ936/view?u

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/document/d/1DFLebH9QH9fzXTckiyhWXNRDVDu4Wca>

Policies



Please provide a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C_N86nVOVploPAYE7rulWlJnb9FV22YI/view

Please provide a link (URL) to the discipline policy for digital learning students.

<https://virtualarkansas.org/studenthandbook>;https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C_N86nVOVploPAYE7rulWlJnb9FV22YI/view

Please provide a link (URL) to the grading policy for digital learning students.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C_N86nVOVploPAYE7rulWlJnb9FV22YI/view

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