

## **Instruction**

### **Distance Learning**

The Board of Education supports learning through accredited Distance Learning courses as an effective means of alternative instruction for students. A virtual school is an educational organization that offers courses at various grade levels through electronic and optical means, such as, Internet or web-based methods. These schools can offer courses to enrich, supplement or enhance the existing curriculum and can also provide an alternative means of instruction. Distance Learning does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor or other students.

Distance Learning courses are part of the Granby Public Schools' educational offerings to increase accessibility to learning opportunities and flexibility in the delivery of instruction. In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, students in the District may earn credit through Distance Learning courses.

All Distance Learning courses are consistent with the District instructional goals and aligned with Connecticut's academic standards, frameworks and assessments. The administration shall periodically review instructional materials of Distance Learning courses to ensure they meet program and District instructional standards.

The District will not use Distance Learning courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in Grades K-12, except in sudden emergency closures. Distance Learning can also be used as a supplement to homebound instruction. High School students may earn credits for graduation by participating successfully in distance learning during this time. Determination of successful participation will be made by the teacher taking into account work performed by the student prior to the emergency or sudden closure. The content and workload of the courses will need to be equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a classroom setting.

The District will make every effort to integrate Distance Learning courses as part of the regular instruction program for Grades K-12.

High School course credit from Distance Learning may be earned only in the following circumstances:

1. The course is not offered at the District's middle/high school;
2. The middle/high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable conflict or because the class is full;
3. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction;
4. The District has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued;

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5. The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment;
6. A student has failed a course and wishes to recover credits in that course area; or,
7. The student's PPT or Section 504 Team has determined it to be an appropriate means of instruction;
8. There is a sudden emergency school closure.

Students shall apply for permission to take Distance Learning courses by doing the following:

1. Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity and skill level needed to function effectively in a Distance Learning course;
2. Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a Distance Learning course;
3. Adhere to District policies regarding the use of technology and the Internet (to the extent applicable); and
4. Adhere to attendance requirements of the District.

Middle/high school students may earn academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing Distance Learning courses through agencies approved by the Board of Education. The District must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved Distance Learning courses shall be posted on student transcripts. With prior approval of the administration, the tuition fee for a Distance Learning course may be borne by the District for students enrolled full-time; however, the District is not required to pay the tuition fee for students seeking credit recovery.

The District shall be responsible for monitoring students taking Distance Learning courses. Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a "virtual library" available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance, and hands-on training and information.

### **District Review Committee**

The District Review Committee, comprised of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Elementary and/or Middle School and/or High School Principal or designee(s), and Department Chairs shall review all Distance Learning courses prior to use by the District. The Board of Education will be informed of any Distance Learning course(s) being used by the District.

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#### **Evaluation**

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

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (as amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses, Other Subject Areas) and P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_