



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

Bryant School District (6303000)

School Year 2022-2023

! 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 #: 6303000

Superintendent: Karen Walters

Email: kwalters@bryantschools.org

Phone: (501) 847-5600

Duration Requested (not to exceed three years): 3 Years
(School year 2022-2023 to 2024-2025)

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

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
6303028 - Bethel Middle School 6303022 - Bryant High School	7-12	Asynchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
6303017 - Bryant Junior High School 6303026 - Bryant Middle 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>BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT 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. DUE TO THE NATURE OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING, THE DISTRICT REQUESTS AN ATTENDANCE WAIVER. STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT CONSISTENTLY ENGAGED MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE VIRTUAL OPTION AND RETURNED TO ONSITE INSTRUCTION.</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.
Class Size Number of students:	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17- 812(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.
				WE ARE NOT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR THE CLASS SIZE. 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.



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	<p>WE ARE NOT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR THE TEACHING LOAD. VIRTUAL TEACHERS PROVIDE 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>



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.
Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-10-126	WE ARE REQUESTING THE SIX-HOUR INSTRUCTIONAL DAY WAIVER. 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.



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			WE ARE REQUESTING THE CLOCK HOUR WAIVER. 100% VIRTUAL STUDENTS ARE WORKING TO MASTER STANDARDS WHICH TAKES A BROAD RANGE OF TIME. WITH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS' BICHRONOUS (ASYNCHRONOUS AND SYNCHRONOUS), STUDENT LEARNING MAY NOT EQUAL A TOTAL OF 120 CLOCK HOURS.
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)	N/A FOR GRADES 7-12. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS DOES PROVIDE PE AND HEALTH AS AN OFFERING FOR 7-12 GRADE STUDENTS.

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.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS IS A “HIGH TOUCH” VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT HARNESSSES THE BENEFIT OF SYNCHRONOUS OR “LIVE” INSTRUCTION MARRIED WITH ALIGNED ASYNCHRONOUS COURSES, OFTEN CALLED BICHRONOUS LEARNING. THIS MODEL ALLOWS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INSTRUCTORS TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS, ADDRESS NEEDED “JUST-IN-TIME” INSTRUCTION, AND PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY IN LEARNING. STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND TWO ZOOM SESSIONS PER WEEK, PER COURSE, AND REQUEST ADDITIONAL ONE:ONE ZOOM SESSIONS AS NEEDED. STUDENTS/TEACHERS ARE ALSO ABLE TO COMMUNICATE 24/7 VIA THE CANVAS LMS MESSAGING OR THE SIS MESSAGING SYSTEM THAT IS MONITORED BY VIRTUAL ARKANSAS. TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO REPLY TO STUDENTS WITHIN 24 WORK HOURS. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO READ AND INTERACT WITH MESSAGES IN THEIR COURSES ON A DAILY BASIS DURING THE SCHOOL WEEK. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ENGAGE IN THE ONLINE CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COURSE CLASS MEANS ENGAGING IN THE COURSE CONTENT. PARTICIPATION INCLUDES VIEWING VIDEOS COMPLETELY, READING THE COURSE CONTENT AND ASSIGNED READINGS COMPLETELY, STUDYING AND PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENTS, AND REVIEWING ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR EACH WEEK. ATTENDANCE IN AN ONLINE COURSE MEANS LOGGING INTO THE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS) AND ENGAGING IN THE COURSE ON A REGULAR BASIS. ATTENDANCE ALSO INCLUDES ATTENDING LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS. THIS COURSE REQUIRES BOTH PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.



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.

BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL PROVIDE ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS, THE STATE VIRTUAL SCHOOL (SVS). VIRTUAL ARKANSAS UTILIZES A BICHRONOUS MODEL OF LEARNING, WHICH INCORPORATES A SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING. STUDENTS WILL ENGAGE IN THEIR DIGITAL COURSEWORK THROUGH THE CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS). STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THIS CONTENT 24 HOURS A DAY AND 7 DAYS OF THE WEEK. STUDENTS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING THROUGH LIVE SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETINGS WITH THEIR TEACHER. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL LIVE ASSISTANCE.

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.

BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE USING VIRTUAL ARKANSAS FOR ITS DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION FOR OUR 100% VIRTUAL STUDENTS. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS PROVIDES A CERTIFIED ARKANSAS TEACHER IN EACH COURSE WHO IS FULLY DEDICATED TO OUR ONLINE LEARNING STUDENTS.

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

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. STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND TWO LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS WITH EACH OF THEIR TEACHERS.



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?

WE ARE NOT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR CLASS SIZE. 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.

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?

WE ARE NOT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR TEACHER LOAD. 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.

Technology / Platforms

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

THE CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) WILL BE UTILIZED THROUGH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS. THIS LMS IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH THE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS) GENIUS.



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.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS PROVIDES ACCESS TO OVER 150 COURSES IN GRADES 7-12 WHICH ARE DESIGNED BY ARKANSAS CERTIFIED TEACHERS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS (SME'S). IN ADDITION, COURSE DESIGNERS AND DEVELOPERS ARE TRAINED THROUGH QUALITY MATTERS AND VIRTUAL ARKANSAS COURSE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRAINING FOCUSED ON THE NATIONAL STANDARDS OF QUALITY (NSQ) FOR ONLINE COURSES. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS COURSES 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 IS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITHIN THE CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS) PLATFORM THAT PROVIDES STUDENT PROGRESS TRACKING CAPABILITIES. STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AGE-APPROPRIATE, ENGAGING LESSONS, AND TOOLS THAT SUPPORT LEARNING, INCLUDING TEXT TO SPEECH SOFTWARE THAT INCLUDES TRANSLATION CAPABILITIES. DIGITAL CONTENT COMBINES DIRECT-INSTRUCTION VIDEOS, RIGOROUS ASSIGNMENTS, PERFORMANCE TASKS, AND ASSESSMENTS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS TO HELP ENSURE SUBJECT-AREA MASTERY.



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.

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, A 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 ARE PLACED IN A COMMON LOCATION WITHIN EACH COURSE FOR EASY ACCESS.

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.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS REQUIRES THE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A DEVICE TO OUR STUDENTS FOR ACCESS. WE ARE PROVIDING iPADS WITH KEYBOARDS FOR OUR STUDENTS TO ACCESS THEIR TEACHER AND COURSEWORK. THE DISTRICT HAS INSTALLED SEVERAL WI-FI LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE CONNECTIVITY ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS. STUDENTS MAY REQUEST A HOTSPOT IF NEEDED.

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.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS EMPLOYS A STUDENT SUCCESS COUNSELOR WHO OVERSEES THE OFF-CAMPUS AND FULLY ONLINE (100% VIRTUAL) STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY PROGRAM. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TEACHERS RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST IN THE MONITORING OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS. WHEN A SITUATION ARISES WHERE INTERVENTION IS DETERMINED TO BE NEEDED BEYOND WHAT CAN BE DONE VIRTUALLY, VIRTUAL ARKANSAS WILL CONTACT THE PARTNERING SCHOOL TO STEP IN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INTERVENTION AND/OR ASSISTANCE. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TEACHERS ARE TRAINED TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED MALTREATMENT/ABUSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES. COUNSELORS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP THERAPY AS NEEDED. VIRTUAL STUDENTS MAY REPORT TO CAMPUS DURING CERTAIN TIMES FOR STATE-MANDATED HEALTH SCREENINGS. SCHOOL NURSES WILL ALSO MONITOR VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS. LUNCH AND BREAKFAST WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP ON STUDENT INTERACTION DAYS.

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.

BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS ACCESS TO THE VIRTUAL ARKANSAS GENIUS SIS AND THE CANVAS LMS TO MONITOR STUDENTS IN REAL-TIME. THE LMS AND SIS BOTH HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO EASILY PRODUCE LOGIN, PARTICIPATION, AND GRADE REPORTS TO HELP IDENTIFY STUDENT ACTIVITY AND ENGAGEMENT LEVELS. THIS DATA IS ACCESSIBLE TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BUILDING LEADERS, COUNSELORS, AND FACILITATORS. ADDITIONALLY, GRADE REPORTS ARE SENT TO PARENTS ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

VA HAS WRAP-AROUND SUPPORTS BUILT INTO ITS PROGRAM TO ASSIST STRUGGLING STUDENTS. THESE SUPPORTS INCLUDE A DEDICATED PRINCIPAL, STUDENT SUCCESS COUNSELOR, SPECIAL POPULATIONS COORDINATOR, MATH STUDENT SUCCESS COACH, ELA STUDENT SUCCESS COACH, AND A READING SPECIALIST. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS ENGAGES IN ROBUST INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES THAT ARE EMPLOYED THROUGH THE STUDENT INTERVENTION TEAM (SIT).



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

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, REFER STUDENTS TO THE STUDENT INTERVENTION TEAM (SIT).

ADDITIONALLY, VIRTUAL ARKANSAS HAS WRAP-AROUND STUDENT SUPPORTS BUILT INTO ITS PROGRAM. THE SUPPORT PERSONNEL INCLUDES A DEDICATED PRINCIPAL, STUDENT SUCCESS COUNSELOR, SPECIAL POPULATIONS COORDINATOR, MATH STUDENT SUCCESS COACH, ELA STUDENT SUCCESS COACH, AND A READING SPECIALIST. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS ENGAGES IN ROBUST INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES THAT ARE EMPLOYED THROUGH THE STUDENT INTERVENTION TEAM (SIT) WHICH MEETS WEEKLY. THIS TEAM REVIEWS INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REFERRALS AND DATA TO DETERMINE NEXT STEPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROPRIATE RTI STRATEGIES.

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

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS COURSES HAVE PERIODIC FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS, CHECKS FOR UNDERSTANDING, AND PRE-TESTS TO DETERMINE STUDENTS' MASTERY OF LEARNING THROUGHOUT THE COURSE CONTENT 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.

BRYANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL ENSURE ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DYSLEXIA LAW ARE MET FOR VIRTUAL LEARNERS.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS PROVIDES ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA INCLUDING READSPEAKER WHICH WILL READ ANY TEXT IN THE COURSE TO STUDENTS. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC ACCOMMODATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THE VIRTUAL ARKANSAS ACCOMMODATION GUIDE. VIRTUAL ARKANSAS EMPLOYS A DYSLEXIA-CERTIFIED READING SPECIALIST AND A SPECIAL POPULATION COORDINATOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DYSLEXIC.

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

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. 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.

FURTHERMORE, OUR STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO TWENTY ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND SEVENTEEN CONCURRENT CREDIT THROUGH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS.



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

Bryant Public Schools will ensure all requirements of the LPAC plan are met for virtual learners.

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 DISTRICT'S LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (LPAC) AND WILL BE SHARED WITH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS 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 VIRTUAL ARKANSAS REGARDING THE ELL STUDENTS' PROGRESS AND MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO NEEDED ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORTS.

English learners will receive access to core content with integrated EL support. The facilitator will provide appropriate linguistic accommodations/supports so that English learners may access the content. (CCP-CC)

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



LEA INSIGHTS

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TEACHERS WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR EVALUATIONS AND CONFERENCES WHEN REQUESTED. BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL UPLOAD THE 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 CAN BE MET IN THE COURSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PARTNERING SCHOOL. THESE APPLICABLE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE VIRTUAL ARKANSAS ACCOMMODATION GUIDE.

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. ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ACCORDING TO STUDENTS' IEP. IF A STUDENT'S IEP REQUIRES MODIFICATIONS IN ADDITION TO ACCOMMODATIONS, THEN THE IEP TEAM WILL CONSULT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TO DETERMINE IF ENROLLMENT IN THE VIRTUAL ARKANSAS COURSE IS APPROPRIATE.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TEACHERS USE CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES THAT INCLUDE EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES, INCLUDING UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

DIRECT INSTRUCTION OR CONSULTATIVE SERVICES AS OUTLINED IN A STUDENT'S IEP CAN BE PROVIDED VIRTUALLY BY A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER DURING THE REGULAR SCHOOL DAY. IF RELATED SERVICES ARE REQUIRED, THEN THOSE SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED THROUGH TELE THERAPY OR ONSITE AT THE SCHOOL CAMPUS. THE IEP TEAM WILL CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT TELE THERAPY SERVICES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE STUDENT.



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 ARE DESCRIBED IN THE VIRTUAL ARKANSAS ACCOMMODATION GUIDE.

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. TOOLS WILL INCLUDE AN INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD, ANNOTATION TOOLS, MIRROR IMAGE SETTING, TEXT-TO-SPEECH TRANSLATORS, AND SPEECH-TO-TEXT TRANSCRIBERS.

THE COURSE SYLLABUS INCLUDES VPAT (VOLUNTARY PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY TEMPLATE) STATEMENTS FOR EACH OF THE DIGITAL PRODUCTS USED IN THE COURSE.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS COURSES MEET THE GUIDELINES OF IDEA AND SECTION 508. 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.

DIGITAL ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: STUDENTS ADJUSTING THE SIZE OF TEXT, USE OF HIGHLIGHTING, ADJUST BACKGROUND COLORS AND BRIGHTNESS OF THE SCREEN, CONTROL VOLUME, ANSWER ELIMINATOR, ADAPTIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, THE USE OF GOOGLE DICTATION TO ASSIST WITH TYPING, AND DIGITAL COPIES OF NOTES.

Teacher Supports



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

BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT 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.

AS PART OF THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY PROCESS, VIRTUAL TEACHERS WILL USE STUDENT DATA TO DRIVE A CONTINUOUS PLAN-DO-CHECK CYCLE OF IMPROVEMENT. IF THERE IS A SUPPORT NEED BEYOND WHAT THE VIRTUAL TEACHER CAN PROVIDE, THE VIRTUAL CAMPUS COORDINATOR WILL FACILITATE THE SUPPORT. ON-GOING AND JOB-EMBEDDED SUPPORT WILL OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR BASED ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA AND CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS.

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?



BRYANT SCHOOL DISTRICT 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 (SMES) ALIGNED TO ARKANSAS STANDARDS.

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. ADDITIONALLY, TEACHERS RECEIVE TRAINING THAT INCLUDES GUIDES FOR RECOMMENDED PACING, ADDING SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT, AND NAVIGATING THE PLATFORM.

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 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.

Virtual learning is open to all students. Bryant will provide all appropriate testing and support services for qualifying students. A virtual learner will be provided a device and a list of locations throughout the community for connectivity if not available in the home. Students will have access to interventions, therapy, and additional support based on student data.



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.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COME ON CAMPUS FOR STATE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS. ALL VIRTUAL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE STATE ASSESSMENTS AND SCHOOL/DISTRICT REQUIRED TESTING (ACT ASPIRE, ACT, ETC.) AT BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT DATES AND TESTING LOCATIONS. TRANSPORTATION AND ALTERNATE TESTING SCHEDULES (MEETS DESE REQUIREMENTS) WILL BE PROVIDED IF NEEDED. FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THEIR ASSIGNED TESTING SESSION, PHONE CALLS AND HOUSE VISITS WILL BE MADE IF NEEDED.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEWIDE SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS IS COMMUNICATED TO PARENTS IN DIFFERENT PLATFORMS INCLUDING AND NOT LIMITED TO:

STUDENT HANDBOOK

VIRTUAL LEARNING GUIDE

PARENT MEETINGS

WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS

PARENT EMAIL

TEACHER COMMUNICATION TO PARENT

BUILDING NEWSLETTERS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 DISTRICT PRINCIPAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIRTUAL ARKANSAS. COMPONENTS THAT AFFECT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ARE ADDRESSED BELOW.

TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS: VIRTUAL ARKANSAS WILL FOLLOW ARKANSAS TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS SUPPORT SYSTEM ALONG WITH THE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ONLINE TEACHING FOR TEACHER EVALUATIONS WITH SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED VIRTUAL CLASSROOM VISITS.

CURRICULUM EFFECTIVENESS: THE CONTENT IN THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE REVIEWED FORMALLY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS THROUGH THE QUALITY MATTERS K-12 STANDARDS FOR QUALITY BY QUALITY MATTERS TRAINED VIRTUAL STAFF TO ENSURE ARKANSAS STANDARDS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR QUALITY ARE BEING MET. ADDITIONALLY, VIRTUAL ARKANSAS IS IN THE PROCESS OF HAVING A VARIETY OF COURSES REVIEWED BY QUALITY MATTERS TO EARN THE QUALITY MATTERS CERTIFICATION.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: STUDENT LEARNING WILL BE MONITORED THROUGH FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS. THIS MONITORING WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY COMPOSED OF VIRTUAL ARKANSAS TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION.

DATA SOURCES: MONITORING, ASSESSING, REFLECTION ON DATA (INFERENCES AND NEXT STEPS). PARENT, STUDENT, AND STAFF (VIRTUAL) SURVEYS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES.



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)

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 STUDENT'S 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](https://www.virtualarkansas.org/293342_2)).

PARENTS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE DISTRICT/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION. THE DISTRICT/SCHOOL WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST PARENTS, AS NEEDED.

Provide the URL to evidence of the local school board's approval of the waiver request(s). <https://bit.ly/BryantBoard5-19-22>

Provide a URL to evidence of stakeholder feedback regarding the waiver request(s) and the district communication plan regarding digital learning program(s). <http://bit.ly/BSDCCommunicationBuzz>

Policies

Please provide a link (URL) to the attendance policy for digital learning students. DRAFT 2022-23 HANDBOOK LINK (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p4>)

Please provide a link (URL) to the discipline policy for digital learning students. DRAFT 2022-23 HANDBOOK LINK (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p4>)

Please provide a link (URL) to the grading policy for digital learning students. DRAFT 2022-23 HANDBOOK LINK (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p4>)

[^ Back to Top](#)