

First Reading: September 10, 2015

Second Reading: October 8, 2015

Adopted: _____

624 ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and govern online learning options of students enrolled in the school district for purposes of compulsory attendance and address enrollment of students with an online learning provider for supplemental or full-time an MDE accredited online learning.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall not prohibit an enrolled student from applying to enroll in online learning.
- B. The school district shall grant academic credit for completing the requirements of MDE accredited, online learning course or program.
- C. The school district shall allow an online learning student to have the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in the school district as all other students in the school district. An online learning provider must assist an online learning student whose family qualifies for education tax credit to acquire computer hardware and educational software for online learning purposes.
- D. The school district shall continue to provide non-academic services to online learning students.
- E. Online learning students may participate in the extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other enrolled students.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Blended learning” is a form of digital learning that occurs when a student learns part time in a supervised physical setting and part time through digital delivery of instruction, or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.

- B. “Digital learning” is learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning and includes blended and online learning.
- C. “Enrolling district” means the school district or charter school in which a student is enrolled under Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 4, for purposes of compulsory education.
- D. “Full-time online learning provider” means an enrolling school authorized by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to deliver comprehensive public education at any or all of the elementary, middle, or high school levels.
- E. “Online learning course syllabus” is a written document that an online learning provider transmits to the enrolling school district using a format prescribed by the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) to identify the state academic standards embedded in an online learning course, the course content outline, required course assessments, expectations for actual teacher contact time, and other student-to-teacher communications, and the academic support available to the online learning student.
- F. “Online learning” is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider under Paragraph III.H.
- G. “Online learning student” is a student enrolled in an online learning course or program delivered by an authorized online learning provider.
- H. “Online learning provider” is a school district, an intermediate school district, or an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides online learning to students and is approved by MDE to provide online learning courses.
- I. “Student” is a Minnesota resident enrolled in a public school, a nonpublic school, church or religious organization, or home school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 120A.22 and 120A.24.
- J. “Supplemental online learning” means an online learning course taken in place of a course period at a local district school.
- K. “Accredited school” means a school that is accredited by an accrediting agency, recognized according to Minn. Stat. § 123B.445 or recognized by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Dissemination and Receipt of Information

1. The school district shall make available information about online learning to all interested people. The school district may utilize the list of approved online learning providers and online learning courses and programs developed, published, and maintained by MDE.
2. The school district will receive and maintain information provided to it by online learning providers.
3. The online learning provider must report or make available information on an individual student's progress and accumulated credit to the student, the student's parent, and the enrolling district in a manner specified by the Commissioner unless the enrolling district and the online learning provider agree to a different form of notice and notify the Commissioner.
4. The enrolling district must designate a contact person to help facilitate and monitor the student's academic progress and accumulated credits toward graduation.

B. Student Enrollment

1. A student may apply for full-time enrollment in an approved online learning program. The student must have the written consent of a parent or guardian to do so.
2. An online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or the grade progression requirement of the enrolling district as described in the provider's online learning course syllabus meets the corresponding graduation requirements applicable to the student in the enrolling district.
3. An online learning student may complete course work at a grade level that is different from the student's current grade level.
4. An online learning student may enroll in additional courses with the online learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for paying any tuition or course fees.

C. Classroom Membership and Teacher Contact Time

1. The enrolling district may reduce an online learning student's regular classroom instructional membership in proportion to the student's membership in online learning courses.

2. The school district may reduce the course schedule of an online learning student in proportion to the number of online learning courses the student takes from an online learning provider other than the school district.

D. Academic Credit; Graduation Standards or Requirements

1. The school district shall apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including online learning students.
2. The school district shall use the same criteria for accepting online learning credits or courses as it does for accepting credits or courses for nonresident transfer students under Minnesota law.
3. The school district may challenge the validity of a course offered by an online learning provider. Such a challenge will be filed with MDE.
4. The school district shall count secondary credits granted to an online learning student toward its graduation and credit requirements.
5. If a student completes an online learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirement at the school district, that standard or requirement will be met.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.42, Subd. 1 (Curriculum; Electronic Components)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (Online Learning Option Act)

Cross References: Mahtomedi School Board Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
Mahtomedi School Board Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
Mahtomedi School Board Policy 608 (Instructional Services – Special Education)
Mahtomedi School Board Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
Mahtomedi School Board Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)

