



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: Reviewed

Magazine School District (4202000)

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 #: 4202000
Superintendent: Elizabeth Shumate
Email: beth.shumate@magazinek12.com
Phone: (866) 900-2001 Ext. 1010
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
4202007 - Magazine Elementary School	K-12	Asynchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
4202008 - Magazine High School		Synchronous		



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)	Magazine School District is requesting a waiver for attendance. Given the nature & intent of a self-paced learning environment, and given the perpetual availability of the online curriculum, the Magazine School District will need the flexibility to enter attendance based on student engagement, synchronous and/or asynchronous, each day.
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.
				<p>The GFESC K-6 Virtual option is not requesting a Class Size waiver for any grades K-6. The class sizes will not exceed the allowable number of students in any of the grade levels K-6, regardless of the grade configuration per building. Several of the school districts participating in the GFESC K-6 Virtual option have grades 5-6 in the Elementary building, thus the GFESC K-6 Virtual option will follow the same guidelines for class size as they would for grades K-4. 100% virtual or remote 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.
<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 teaching load. 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.</p>
<p>Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-10-126	



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>Magazine School District is requesting a waiver for the Six Hour Instructional Day. Students will have some control over time, place, and pace in the GFESC K-6 Virtual option. The district and the GFESC K-6 Virtual option will work with students and parents to ensure engagement in the flexible environment. The instructional day will be measured through student engagement and mastery of content.</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			Magazine School District is requesting a waiver for Clock Hours. Students in a virtual setting where learning is synchronous and/or asynchronous will learn in their own time, place, and pace. This may mean that 120 hours of seat time or clock hours per credit may not be needed to master the course standards.
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)	



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
				<p>The Magazine School district is requesting the Recess Waiver for the 2022-2025 school years. Recess will be a part of every virtual student's daily schedule. Students will be assigned lessons that support physical activities while learning asynchronously; however, it will not include synchronous supervision. Student schedules will include suggested breaks to ensure students have time in their day for physical activity. Physical activity and nutrition standards will also be embedded in the curriculum of classes as is appropriate. Required health screenings will be scheduled and conducted at the school. Guy Fenter ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers will ask virtual students to keep an activity log that will be checked bi-weekly. Parents and/or students will also be asked to share a video of themselves completing an activity/lesson, or complete an assignment that is directly related to the physical education content. N/A for grades 7-12. Virtual Arkansas does provide PE and Health as an offering for 7-12 grade students.</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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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.



The Education Service Cooperative (GFESC) K-6 Virtual option is a dual learning virtual experience with both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. This model allows for flexibility with learning, student-teacher relationships, and targeted learning for all students. Students will have the opportunity to attend three Zoom sessions per week for each core content course and one Zoom per week for enhancement courses (i.e. Music, Art, PE). All K-6 virtual students will be required to attend a minimum of one Zoom session per week. It is highly encouraged that students attend all Zoom sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend Zoom sessions are more successful than students who do not attend Zoom sessions. Teachers and students will be able to communicate twenty-four hours a day using the Red Comet - Buzz Learning Management System or through the GFESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessionals are expected to communicate with parents and students in the GFESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday - Friday.

At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional Zoom sessions as needed. While Zoom sessions are not required, they are highly encouraged as empirical data has shown students who attend Zoom are shown to be more successful than students who do not attend Zoom. Magazine High School will require two Zoom sessions per course per week. 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 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.

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.

All of the components of the Science of Reading will be delivered through an approved program for grades K-6. The phonological awareness will be done by using Heggerty. The phonics component will be done with Foundations; they have online components to use through the FunHub. Foundations also has fluency passages that will check that will be used. The vocabulary and comprehension will be achieved through word choice and questions for science and social studies lessons. The GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers will be trained in Foundations and Heggerty and will have support from the GFESC Literacy Specialists. The GFESC Literacy Specialists will also work with the virtual teachers to ensure that they meet the needs of the students by using assessments and the data to drive their instruction. Assessments will be used to progress monitor and make certain that students are learning. Foundations has assessments that will be used to monitor proficiency, as well. If students don't get 80% on an assessment, the data can be used to plan reteaching before assessing prior to moving to the next unit. The



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plan re-teaching before assessing prior to moving to the next unit. The GFESC Literacy Specialists will meet with the school to teach/coach them on how to assess, how to use the data to ensure proficiency, what to do when students aren't proficient, and what intervention to use to meet the deficiencies. Additional Zoom sessions may be required to ensure that the Science of Reading requirements are met.



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.

Magazine Elementary School will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through the GFESC K-6 Virtual option. The program will provide instruction using a dual model of both synchronous and asynchronous online learning. Students will engage in digital coursework through the Red Comet - Buzz Learning Management System (LMS). All students will have the opportunity to participate in live Zoom sessions for synchronous learning with the teacher. All learning and instruction will be virtual.

Magazine High School 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 teachers. All learning will take place online. CTE courses offered virtually through VA will be a blended model. Students will receive instruction virtually, in addition to having the option to attend on-site skills sessions.

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.



Magazine Elementary School will use the (GFESC) K-6 Virtual option for delivery of instruction for students that are 100% virtual. Magazine School District will provide an Arkansas certified teacher of record and a District Point of Connection. Delania Smith, Magazine Elementary School media specialist will be the Point of Contact for the K-6 option. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option will provide training and support for the District Point of Connection. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option will have Arkansas certified teachers as the instructors for all course content from the Red Comet - Buzz LMS. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option is a model with synchronous targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and enrichment. All GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers and paraprofessionals will be required to participate in professional development and digital training with support from the GFESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator.

Magazine High School will be using Virtual Arkansas for its delivery of instruction for our 7-12th 100% virtual students. Virtual Arkansas provides a fully certified Arkansas teacher of record while we provide the facilitator. Amanda Kirk, Magazine High School's DLC facilitator will coordinate the 7-12 option. 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. Mrs. Kirk has been the district's DLC coordinator/facilitator for approximately 10 years and has worked with Virtual Arkansas her entire tenure.

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



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GFESC K-6 Virtual option students will be required to attend a minimum of one Zoom session per week per course. It is highly encouraged that students attend all Zoom sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend Zoom sessions are more successful than students who do not attend Zoom sessions. Teachers and students will be able to communicate twenty-four hours a day using the Red Comet - Buzz Learning Management System or through the GFESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessionals are expected to communicate with parents and students in the GFESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday - Friday. GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers are expected to monitor students and provide a weekly status report to the students and parents/guardians, and initiate further contact with students that are demonstrating difficulties with course content. GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers are required to respond to parent/guardian/student communication within a twenty-four-hour time period. All teachers are continuously provided PD and/or support for engaging and relevant synchronous instruction.

At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional Zoom sessions as needed. While Zoom sessions are not required, they are highly encouraged as empirical data has shown students who attend Zoom are shown to be more successful than students who do not attend Zoom. Magazine High School will require two Zoom sessions per course per week. 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. Students are highly encouraged but not required to attend all Zoom sessions. Teachers are continuously provided PD and support for providing engaging and relevant synchronous instruction.



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

Each teacher in grades K-3 will be assigned a paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. Each teacher in the 4-6 grades will have a half-time paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. All GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and paraprofessionals will be trained on the Red Comet - Buzz LMS and provided support through professional development. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator will also provide support for teachers and parents as needed.

Magazine High School is not applying for a waiver for class size for our 7-12 virtual option. We do plan to offer some supports. Students will work virtually, however the facilitator work with Virtual Arkansas teachers to keep students on task. The facilitator monitors grades weekly, points students to additional resources in addition to what Virtual Arkansas provides.

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?



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School districts that are using the GFESC K-6 Virtual option as a digital learning solution for students that are 100% virtual will make it possible for teachers on-site in the district to focus solely on face-to-face students, and virtual teachers to focus solely on virtual/digital students. Each GFESC K-6 Virtual teacher in grades K-3 will be assigned a paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. Each teacher in the 4-6 grades will have a half-time paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. The teachers will utilize the paraprofessionals for communication with students and/or parent/guardians, instructional support, differentiation, etc. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator will communicate regularly with the District Point of Connection, as well as perform multiple observations/evaluations to monitor the teacher and/or students. Information gathered through observations will be shared with each respective school district and adjustments made as needed.

Virtual Arkansas partners with schools to ensure student success. In cases where districts are using Virtual Arkansas, teacher training and support are 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. Using Virtual Arkansas as the 100% digital learning solution we are minimizing the load/responsibility of instruction by allowing face-to-face teachers to focus on those students.

Technology / Platforms

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

The Red Comet - Buzz Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized for the GFESC K-6 Virtual option.

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas.



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.

The Red Comet Courseware curriculum is aligned to the Arkansas State Standards, Common Core, and the Next Generation Science Standards. Courses consist of direct-instruction videos, rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. The Red Comet - Buzz LMS allows teachers to customize all courses to match district and/or state frameworks, scope and sequence and pacing guides. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and paraprofessionals can monitor student progress using the Gradebook and Reporting features built into the LMS. Each teacher will have an Educator Dashboard that allows for full program management by the student, subject, teacher, grade level, assignment, district, etc. School district administrators, District Point of Connection, and the GFESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator have full access to the Reporting feature of the LMS as well.

Virtual Arkansas courses are designed and written by subject matter experts (SME's) 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.

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 and teachers will utilize Zoom video software in both the GFESC K-6 Virtual and 7-12 Virtual Arkansas options for all synchronous learning opportunities. The Zoom software/app is downloaded to the student's personal device or district-provided device that students checked out if a device is needed. In both Virtual Options, teachers will provide synchronous instruction sessions with students via Zoom during scheduled times throughout each week. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule for each course will be posted in a common location within each course for easy use by both students and parents/guardians.



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

Each 100% virtual student that needs a device will be assigned a district device. Students who do not have reliable internet service may apply for a district-issued hotspot. Wi-Fi will be available on each campus in posted areas.

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.

Our educational team consisting of administrators, school counselors, and a curriculum coordinator will be monitoring the success and well-being of our students weekly. A member of our educational team will be responsible for periodic check-ins with all virtual students through zoom, email, and/or phone calls to address issues such as mental health and food security needs. If there is any suspicion of a wellness or safety issue involving a virtual student, a school administrator and counselor will conduct an in-person meeting with the student. Additionally, GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option 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, GFESC K-6 Virtual option teacher(s) and/or coordinator will contact the school through a school counselor to step in and provide intervention. These teachers are also trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Breakfast and lunch will be available to any virtual student and can be picked up at the elementary school between the hours of 7:45-11:30.



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.

Magazine Elementary School has access to the Red Comet - Buzz LMS to monitor students in real-time. Virtual option teachers will initiate intervention when a teacher determines a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. In cases where needed, Virtual option teachers will involve the partnering school through the Point of Connection, first. GFESC Virtual option coordinator will contact administrators if the initial intervention is not successful.

Magazine High School 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 administrators if the initial intervention is not successful.

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

GFESC and Virtual Arkansas option teachers have been trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions and, if those are not successful, reach out to the partnering school regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. GFESC Virtual option 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.

GFESC K-6 and the Virtual Arkansas Options 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.

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



The Magazine School District will ensure that all dyslexia law requirements are met for digital learners by providing dyslexia screening and intervention as needed for all students, no matter if they are on-site or fully virtual. Virtual students who qualify for services will receive ZOOM invitations to participate in their group's intervention session at the designated times each week. Magazine School District will make sure that all students K-12, virtual or on-site, receive Dyslexia intervention at designated times each week. The district Dyslexia Interventionist will work with the GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and Virtual Arkansas Facilitators to ensure that all dyslexia law requirements are met for each student needing services.

GFESC K-6 Virtual Option provides accessibility tools to support students with dyslexia. Dyslexia screening is provided virtually or in person by the dyslexia interventionist at the student's home school or by district staff. Digital learning students identified with characteristics that could be associated with dyslexia are grouped with other students from their home school who have similar assessment results. Digital students receive a ZOOM invitation to participate in their group's intervention session at the designated time(s) each week.

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 the partnering school.

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



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All GT program approval standards will be met when designing programming for identified gifted students with all GT policies of the Magazine School District followed for virtual students. All 2nd grade virtual students will complete the district's universal screener remotely on the same timeline as on-site students. Additional screening and evaluation will take place remotely when possible or will be scheduled individually through the District GT Coordinator. For grades 3-6, all GFESC K-6 Virtual option courses provide for differentiation for GT students. Also for grades 3-6, fully virtual GT students will have the option to participate in on-site GT classes with the District GT Coordinator or participate in virtual GT classes with our District GT Coordinator through Google Classroom. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers have been trained in classroom differentiation and will differentiate content for GT students in their classes.

All current Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained with the GT Secondary Course Content training and have support for gifted learners provided within the course as well as a representation of those learning offerings for documentation for partnering schools. New hires will also be expected to attain this training if they do not already have it. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas provides student perception surveys sent out each semester asking for student feedback on their learning experience. A parent perceptions survey will be conducted as well. Teachers are also encouraged to do informal surveys with students regarding the course learning experience throughout the year.

In K-2, weekly lessons will be shared with GFESC K-6 virtual teachers to provide enrichment for all K-2 virtual students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option Coordinator is GT certified and will provide lessons for both GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers and students.

Referral/Placement conferences will be held virtually through a Google Form process developed by the GFESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator in coordination with the point of connection at the Magazine School District and/or district GT coordinator.



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

The Magazine School District will work with ESOL/ESL students to ensure that all LPAC requirements are met for virtual learners. The Magazine School District ESOL teachers and paraprofessionals will provide support for English language learners in the GFESC K-6 Virtual option. Licensed teachers and trained paraprofessionals—under the supervision of teachers—work with students to increase their language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Professional development is provided for teachers and paras to support the language development and academic needs of English language learners. In addition, support is provided for the parents to be fully engaged in their child's education by providing them with training, information, and translation services through Cafecitos and Family Literacy. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option 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. Virtual Arkansas and GFESC K-6 Virtual Option 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. Students and parents will be scheduled on-site for ELPA21 screenings and evaluations whenever possible but could conduct these evaluations virtually if appropriate. LPAC conferences will be conducted virtually, however parents and students would be allowed to meet in person on campus if the family desired to do so.



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

Special Education services and supports will be determined by the student's IEP committee. This committee will determine the method of delivery of services. Accommodations will be provided through the Red Comet - Buzz LMS at the Elementary and through Virtual Arkansas for High School students. Students will be scheduled on-site for special education evaluations. Conferences will be conducted virtually if possible. Virtual Arkansas teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested. Magazine High School 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.

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

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

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.

Teacher Supports



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

The Magazine Elementary School will utilize the GFESC K-6 Virtual Option as the digital content and instructional solution. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will incorporate training for the usage of the Red Comet - Buzz LMS and virtual instructional strategies. All GFESC K-6 Virtual personnel will participate in both directed/scheduled and embedded professional development activities, book studies, and weekly collaborative teams. GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will collaborate with a team of instructional and digital content experts for in-time support for all teachers. Finally, GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will have a team of technology support specialists to assist with any technological issues.

Magazine High School 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 technical issues.



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?

The Magazine School District will utilize the GFESC K-6 Virtual Option. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will, at minimum, follow the guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher planning time (40 minutes per day). GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will provide instructional and digital content support for point-in-time support for all teachers. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will utilize a curriculum developed by faculty members and subject matter experts within the Red Comet - Buzz LMS which are aligned to Arkansas state standards. The GFESC will provide professional development to aid personnel as they provide instruction to the students.

Magazine High School will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution. Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize curriculum developed by Arkansas subject matter experts (SME's) aligned to Arkansas standards. We 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 the 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.

The Magazine School District will ensure that all students have access to any Magazine education programs for which they are academically eligible. This includes full virtual instruction, as is the case with all educational opportunities in our school district. The following policy is our Magazine School District policy pertaining to equal educational opportunity for all students.

4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in the Magazine School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District



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.

The Magazine School District understands that all students are expected to take statewide summative assessments on-site per DESE guidance. Our school district also desires for all of our students to be tested in this manner and will do everything we can to ensure all of our fully virtual students come to campus and test. The Magazine School District will utilize all of the following methods to notify parents and students of on-site testing dates and requirements: social media, school text messaging system, school building calendars, student handbooks with testing dates, phone calls, mailed newsletters, and the school website. Testing will be set up for digital learning students with flexibility in mind to ensure that all fully virtual students will have the opportunity to test in a safe manner.

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.

The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents, schools, and students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option will analyze student data such as common formative assessments, LMS work, and school/district specific assessments used for formative and summative purposes in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

The Magazine School District will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents and students. Magazine School District will analyze student data from ACT Aspire, GFESC K-6 Virtual Option grades, school/district-specific assessments used for formative and summative purposes in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

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.



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)

The Magazine School District will support parents and students with digital tools and resources including, point-in-time technical support for hardware and software issues, maintenance and support of the district LMS, access to district Wi-Fi available on campus, and district-issued Wi-Fi hotspots on an as-needed basis.

The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option will engage families in the digital learning process by granting access to the parent portal of the LMS to monitor their student's progress. The GFESC Virtual Option will conduct a parent orientation which will address key strategies for engagements and success in the virtual format. Families will be asked to complete surveys and participate in feedback forums for the program. The GFESC Virtual Option faculty will also conduct parent/teacher conferences as required by state standards.

In addition, 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.

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

https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/649/

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

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mdZRVJm3fSzXkyi63eShtJ5Y5wJ_

Policies

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

GFESC K-6 Virtual students are expected to access, attend, and interact with t



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

GFESC K-6 Virtual students are expected to follow the local district discipline

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

GFESC K-6 Virtual students will be provided grades based on the individual sc

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