



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: Senate Bill 15 on Virtual Instruction – UISD Virtual Academic Program Plan

SUBMITTED BY: Emma Leza, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

OF: Curriculum & Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: September 15, 2021

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Overview of state requirements and the instructional impact of Senate Bill 15 on Virtual Instruction
Note: As of 9/3/2021 the Bill has not been Signed or Vetoed by Governor Abbott

Senate Bill 15 An Act Relating To Virtual and Off- Campus Electronic Instruction

Instructional Committee
Presentation

and

Mr. David Gonzalez
Superintendent of Schools

September 2021

Presenter: Emma Leza, Associate Superintendent for C&I



UNITED ISD



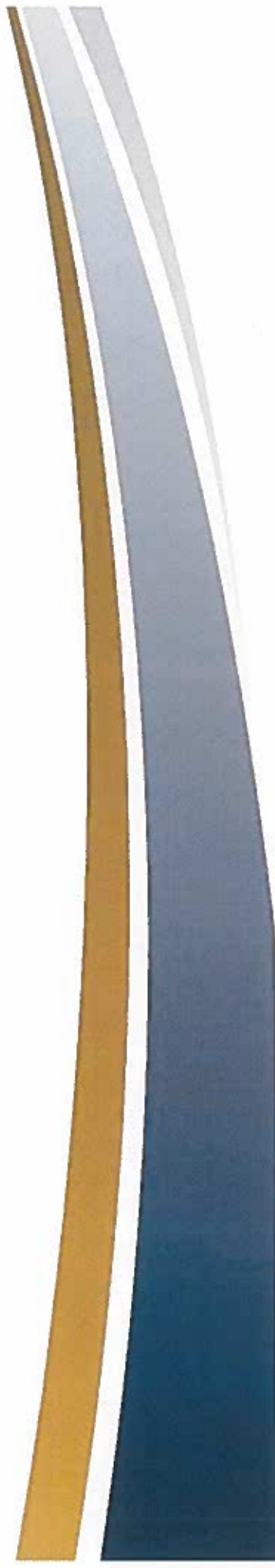
SB 15 Overview

As finally passed, this bill would allow districts to operate a local remote learning program to offer virtual courses to ELIGIBLE Students.

Average Daily Attendance or ADA would be generated through the virtual academic program, if all requirements are met.

Instruction can be synchronous, asynchronous, a combination of both or a hybrid program (virtual and in-person).

The Virtual Academic Program (VAP) would be limited to only 10% of students currently enrolled in the 21-22 school year. As of 9/2/21, 37,963 or only 3,793 students. [9-2-21 Enrollment](#)



Virtual Academic Program – District Eligibility

- District must have received an overall accountability rating higher than a “C” in 2019
- District must include at least one (1) grade level with STAAR assessments
- District must offer every parent an option for selecting in-person instruction
- The bill does allow the Commissioner to grant a waiver of the 10% enrollment requirement
- Teachers are prohibited from being required to teach both virtual and in-person students during the same class period
- Teachers may not be directly or indirectly coerced to agree to an assignment to teach a full-time local virtual program
- Teachers providing instruction for a virtual course/grade level are required to have completed a professional development course on virtual instruction.
- The virtual academic program must meet the needs of a participating student in a manner consistent with IDEA (Special Education) and Section 504
- The virtual academic program must be evaluated within the same accountability system as any other campus in the district

Virtual Academic Program – Student Eligibility

The amended bill that finally passed would NOT ALLOW attendance of students who received remote instruction for the majority of the 20-21 SY if:

- The student failed any STAAR or EOC Tests in 20-21;
- The student did not earn a C (70) or better in each foundation curriculum course taken virtually (Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies)
- The student had unexcused absences exceeding 10% of instructional days in the 20-21 SY

Students participating in the Virtual Academic Program Must:

- Be enrolled in the district
- Have reasonable access to in-person instruction at a district or school facility
- Be administered any state required assessment instrument in the same manner as other students (in-person)

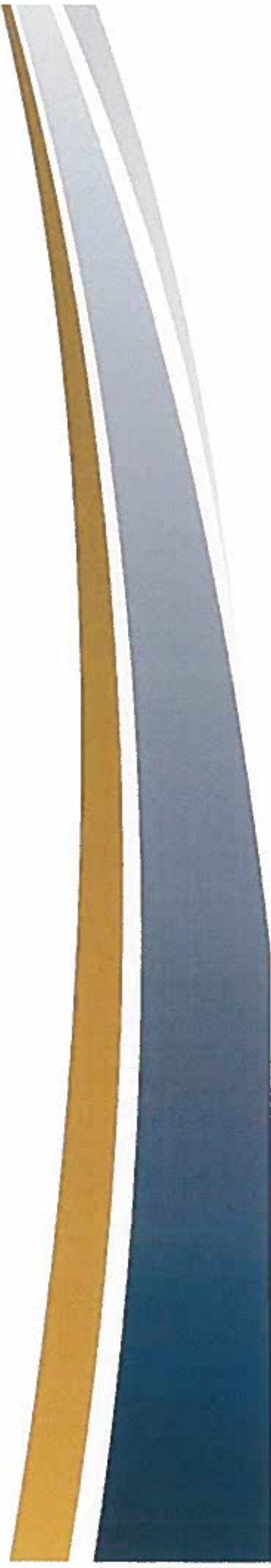
Virtual Academic Program – Student Removal

The removal from the Virtual Academic Program will be based on not meeting the District's Virtual Academic Program such as :

- Low attendance rate
- Not meeting the academic standards
- Not participating in required in-person assessments

The parent and student must receive periodic performance information such as progress reports and report cards.

The parent/guardian must have sufficient notice and opportunity to provide input before the student is removed from the Virtual Academic Program.



Virtual Academic Program – Next Steps

- Review 20-21 data for STAAR, Attendance, and Grades for students to determine eligibility
- Review Teacher Certification Requirements to determine pool of teachers
- Determine the Grades to be offered in the Virtual Academic Program: Currently considering PK – 6th for the first semester
- Determine the needs for establishing a Separate Campus Number for Accountability Purposes (TEA has not released procedures)
- Establish the curriculum and instructional schedule for a Combination of Synchronous and Asynchronous VAP
- Determine the type of Professional Development Session(s) required by TEA for VAP Teachers
- Determine attendance procedures as per TEA requirements

Virtual Academic Program – Next Steps

- Review last year's Asynchronous Instructional Plan and make necessary adjustments for implementation
- Determine location for teachers to teach from and location(s) for administering all required state assessments: (MAP, STAAR, STAAR ALT, TELPAS, & TELPAS ALT)
- Determine administration and campus leads for enrichment activities for students participating in VAP
- Determine UIL and Extracurricular participation procedures
- Determine program evaluation instruments and procedures
- Develop all data evaluation components for identifying students participating in VAP and evaluating attendance, grades, and overall social and emotional wellness

Given all the requirements included in SB 15, we are looking at a possible start date by October 18th (middle of the 2nd Six Weeks Pd.)



Texas Administrative Code Adjustments

It is important to note that changes may be issued by the 3rd Special Called Legislative Session (as mentioned by Representative Raymond) or once the Commissioner finalizes the Texas Administrative Code that will govern
Senate Bill 15.

Sources: Moak & Casey Summary, Texas School Alliance Information and Senate Bill 15 Enrolled Version