



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Reviewed**

 Mansfield School District (6606000)

School Year 2021-2022

! 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 #: 6606000

Superintendent: Joe Staton

Email: jstaton@mansfieldtigers.org

Phone: (479) 928-4006

Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 3 Years
(School year 2021-2022 to 2024-2025)

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

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
6606060 - Mansfield Elementary School	k-12	Asynchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
6606061 - Mansfield Middle School		Synchronous		
6606062 - Mansfield High 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)	The Mansfield School District will apply for a waiver of attendance for those students who are enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option program and the Virtual Arkansas program for grades 7-12. The attendance for these students, per district policy, is determined by the online attendance and time the student is working on the course rather than the student's physical presence in the school building.
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 graded 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.
Teaching Load Number of students: 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.	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812	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.
Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	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.



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			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.
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 Mansfield School District is requesting the Recess Waiver. Recess will be 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.</p>

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 Mansfield School District will utilize the Education Service Cooperative (ESC) K-6 Virtual option which 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 per course. It is highly encouraged that students attend all Zoom sessions each week as research shows these students to be more successful than students who do not attend the Zoom sessions. Teachers and students will be able to communicate twenty-four hours a day using the Red Comet-Buzz LMS or through the ESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessionals are expected to communicate with parents and students in the ESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday - Friday.

All of the components of the Science or 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 what 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 do not score at 80% on an assessment, the data can be used to plan re-teaching before assessing prior to moving to the next unit. The GFESC Literacy Specialists will meet with schools to teach/coach them on how to assess, how to use 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.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w64UgYJ1mK_36GMy0owiv37ZnjcW2DCXoM1hd156V8s/edit

ESC K-6 Virtual teachers are expected to monitor students and provide a weekly status report to students and parent/guardians, and initiate further contact with students that are demonstrating difficulties with course content. Additional Zoom sessions 1:1 or small group sessions may also be assigned to students for extra instruction and/or enrichment in specific content areas or skills. All 100% virtual students will have the opportunity to zoom in to on-site small group interventions as needed.

The Mansfield School District will utilize Virtual Arkansas for Grades 7-12 virtual



The Mansfield School District will utilize Virtual Arkansas for Grades 7-12 virtual students. 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. At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional one:one 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. 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 a 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.

CTE courses offered virtually through Virtual Arkansas will be a blended model. Students will receive instruction virtually but will in addition have the option to attend on-site skills sessions on campus.



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.

The Mansfield School District will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through the ESC 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 (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.

The Mansfield School District will utilize online virtual remote learning through Virtual Arkansas for grades 7-12 students. 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.

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.



The Mansfield School District will use the ESC K-6 Virtual option for delivery of instruction for students that are 100% virtual. The district will provide an Arkansas certified teacher of record and a District Point of Contact. Mansfield Elementary Counselor Darla Walker will serve as the District Point of Contact for grades K-6. The ESC K-6 Virtual option will provide training and support for the District Point of Contact. The ESC K-6 Virtual option will have Arkansas certified teachers as the instructors for all course content from the Red Comet-Buzz LMS. The ESC K-6 Virtual option is a model with synchronous targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and enrichment. All ESC K-6 Virtual teachers and paraprofessionals will be required to participate in professional development and digital training with support from the ESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator.

The Mansfield School District will be using Virtual Arkansas for its delivery of instruction for our 100% virtual students in grades 7-12. Virtual Arkansas provides a fully certified Arkansas teacher of record while the district provides the facilitator. The Mansfield School District will utilize paraprofessionals Carol Smith and Brittney Moser, who are both experienced Virtual Arkansas facilitators, as our facilitators again in 2021-22. 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.

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



ESC K-6 Virtual option 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 LMS or through the ESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessionals are expected to communicate with parents and students in the ESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday - Friday. ESC K-6 Virtual teachers are expected to monitor students and provide a weekly status report to students and parent/guardians, and initiate further contact with students that are demonstrating difficulties with course content. ESC 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.

For grade 7-12 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?

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

The Mansfield School District is not seeking a waiver for class size in regard to grade 7-12 virtual students.

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?

Using the ESC K-6 Virtual option and Virtual Arkansas as a digital learning solution for students that are 100% virtual will make it possible for teachers who are on-site in the Mansfield School District to focus solely on face to face students.

For the ESC K-6 option, each virtual teacher in grades K-3 will be assigned a paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. Each virtual teacher in the 4-6 grades will have a half-time paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. The virtual teachers will utilize the paraprofessionals for communication with students and/or parent/guardians, instructional support, differentiation, etc. The ESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator will communicate regularly with the District Point of Contact, 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.

In the same fashion Virtual Arkansas will lessen the load on face-to-face teachers who were burdened with teaching on-site, quarantined, and virtual students during the 2020-21 school year.



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 ESC K-6 Virtual option.

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas for virtual students in grades 7-12.

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-Buzz course 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 ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and paraprofessionals can monitor student progress using the Gradebook and Reporting features built into the LMS. Each virtual teacher will have an Educator Dashboard that allows for full program management by student, subject, teacher, grade level, assignment, district, etc. School district administrators, the District Point of Contact, and the ESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator will 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.

The ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and students will be utilizing Zoom video software for all synchronous learning opportunities. The Zoom software/app is downloaded to the district provided device and checked out to each 100% virtual student. The ESC K-6 Virtual option teacher 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.

Students in Virtual Arkansas courses 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. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule is placed in a common location within each course.

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 in the ESC K-6 program and the Virtual Arkansas program 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.

The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and Mansfield School District Point of Connection will be monitoring the success and well-being of our students weekly. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and paraprofessionals will be responsible for weekly 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, the GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and the District Point of Connection are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option Coordinator and teachers use 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, the GFESC K-6 Option Virtual Coordinator and/or teacher will contact the District Point of Connection and 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.

Virtual Arkansas 7-12 teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students using a variety of methods of communications with the partnering school district. Virtual Arkansas teachers are trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Child Maltreatment Hotline. Virtual Arkansas provides ongoing professional development to their teachers to support Social Emotional Learning strategies.



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.

GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and paraprofessionals have been trained to identify and intervene when a student is not being successful in the program. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions through their class interactions and additional supports through their zoom sessions with the students. If those are still unsuccessful, the GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers, through the weekly monitoring process, will collaborate with parents/guardians and the district RTI Specialist to offer additional Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports for students as needed.

Virtual Arkansas teachers will initiate interventions when it is determined that a student is not actively engaging or successfully mastering the course content. Virtual Arkansas will contact school counselors, administrators, or the District Point of Contact if the initial intervention with the student is not successful. The school district will contact parents/guardians as often as necessary to encourage parent/guardian involvement in assisting the struggling student.

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



The ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and paraprofessionals have been trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when it is determined that a virtual student is not achieving at a successful level. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions and, if those are not successful, to reach out to the partnering school district Point of Connection regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. The GFESC K-6 virtual Option teachers will work with the school district RTI Specialist to offer additional intervention sessions as needed. The ESC K-6 Virtual option also has a PLC structure designed to address intervention with targeted intervention meetings that occur each quarter.

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

Instructional decisions will be made using multiple data points, including assessment results-- formative and summative, classwork, as well as student engagement data. Student engagement data includes attendance, discipline, and mobility in the current school year and in previous years. If a student is not making the required daily academic progress or is not engaging consistently, the GFESC K-6 Virtual teacher will intervene. The interventions may include, but are not limited to: A phone call to student and parents, creation and implementation of a student individualized intervention plan, academic coaching; mandatory in-person or virtual meetings with the teacher, student and/or parent to monitor progress, increased time spent on coursework, remediation with a teacher to ensure success on assignments, and teacher determined completion goals (daily and/or weekly) for the student. Interventions may include, but are not limited to, weekly check in meetings with the GFESC K-6 Virtual teacher, parent, and student, meetings with campus administration, or a transition to face-to-face instruction. Interventions will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis for each student. All services provided by support programs, including Special Education, English Language Learner, or 504 plans will be provided remotely as available. Students may be required to meet onsite for specific services and assessments.



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

The ESC K-6 Virtual Option has 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). Virtual teachers also use weekly live Zoom to do informal formative checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks.

Virtual Arkansas courses for grades 7-12 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 Mansfield School District will provide dyslexia screening and intervention as needed for all students, no matter if they are on-site or fully virtual. Students in dyslexia screening grades will be brought to campus to conduct the screenings along with any other screeners that the district needs for each student. If a student is completely unable to come to campus, the dyslexia screener will be conducted virtually by our Dyslexia Interventionist. If a need for dyslexia screening is determined for a virtual student in non-screened grade levels, the local educational team and Dyslexia interventionist will schedule on-site screenings for those students, with virtual screenings also being available for students that cannot get to campus. Any virtual student qualifying for dyslexia services will have modifications in place through the Arkansas-licensed GFESC K-6 Virtual Option teacher. The local school counselors are responsible for submitting all individualized 504 plans for students to GFESC K-6 Virtual Option Coordinator and teachers to utilize all of the modifications for each student on a 504 plan, whether it be for dyslexia or any other reason. Additionally, virtual students who qualify for dyslexia services will receive zoom interventions through our Dyslexia Interventionist using our dyslexia reading program to provide dyslexia services. Moreover, if any virtual students requiring dyslexia services want to receive just those services on campus in addition to their virtual schedule, they would be allowed to do so.

For grades 7-12 Virtual Arkansas provides accessibility tools to support students with dyslexia, including ReadSpeaker, that will read any text in the course to the students. Virtual Arkansas will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual 504 plan or IEP uploaded into the SIS by the partnering school.



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

All GT Standards will be followed when designing programming for identified gifted students. The policies of the partnering school district will be followed for virtual students. K-2 students will receive their 30 minutes of enrichment provided by a teacher who has completed the Teaching Differentiation & Growth Mindset in the K-2 classroom training. The teacher will document any evidence of gifted characteristics and share with the partnering school district. Any parental referrals for gifted testing will be made to the partnering district according to their policies. If a student is referred for gifted services the testing the creation of a testing portfolio will be the responsibility of the partnering school district the student attends. Identified gifted students will have the option to participate in on-campus Gifted and Talented classes as approved by the district and/or will be served through the consultant teacher model in their virtual classes. For the consultant teacher model a gifted educator from the partner district will work with the virtual teacher in developing management plans, providing demonstration lessons and supervising the gifted students progress.

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.



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

The Mansfield School District will work with ESOL/ESL students to make sure that LPAC plan requirements are met. The district provides a licensed ESL teacher who works with students virtually throughout the school year. The students in the program receive the required services in order to increase their language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The ESL teacher will frequently contact parents to discuss their child's progress and to discuss their understanding of school services, programs, events, and academic situations. Families and students have the contact information for the teacher and may contact the teacher anytime there is a question or a need. The ESL teacher will frequently contact the building administration and teachers to discuss the progress of students and determine weaknesses that she can address within the ESL program. In addition, the ESL teacher will communicate with the district test coordinator regarding ELPA21 screening and testing which the DTC handles for the district. Home Language Survey forms are also discussed with the DTC to ensure that ELPA21 screening is administered within the required 30 day window.

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



The Mansfield School District Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals will provide support for IEP students in the Guy Fenter ESC K-6 Virtual option. 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 Learning Management System. Students will be scheduled on-site for Special Education evaluations. Conferences will be conducted virtually if possible.

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. All modifications/accommodations will be provided according to student's IEP. During virtual learning, students who have been identified as needing special education services will be served through Zoom, or other communication platforms. Based on progress monitoring data, students needing Special Education services may be required to meet face-to-face with district special education certified staff. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers, coordinator, and school district special education teachers will ensure that all IEP accommodations are met for each student enrolled in the GFESC K-6 Virtual option.

For students in the grades 7-12 Virtual Arkansas program, IEPs will be uploaded to virtual teachers within ten (10) days. 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.

The teachers of the Mansfield School District have provided and/or have access to digital accommodations that 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, adaptive intervention resources, audio textbooks, audio reading materials and speech to text on technology devices.

Virtual Arkansas courses meet the guidelines of IDEA and Section 504. 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 Mansfield School District will utilize the ESC K-6 Virtual Option as the digital content and instructional solution. The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will incorporate training for the usage of the Red Comet-Buzz LMS and virtual instructional strategies. All ESC K-6 Virtual personnel will provide both directed/scheduled and embedded professional development activities, book studies, and weekly collaborative teams. ESC K-6 Virtual Option will provide a team of instructional and digital content experts for in-time support for all virtual teachers. Finally, ESC K-6 Virtual Option will have a team of technology support specialists to assist with any technological issues.

In addition, the Mansfield School District will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas as our digital content and digital instruction solution for students in grades 7-12. 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 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 Mansfield School District will utilize the ESC K-6 Virtual Option. The ESC 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). The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will provide instructional and digital content support for point-in-time support for all virtual teachers. The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will utilize curriculum developed by faculty members and subject matter experts within the Red Comet-Buzz LMS which are aligned to Arkansas state standards. The ESC will provide professional development to aid personnel as they provide instruction to the students.

The Mansfield School District will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution for grades 7-12. Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize curriculum developed by Arkansas subject matter experts (SME's) aligned to Arkansas standards. 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.



The Mansfield School District will ensure that digital learners enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option and Virtual Arkansas have free access to the materials and technology necessary to successfully complete coursework for the program. The district will provide digital students with chromebooks and hotspots if there is a need. The district Technology Director will be available to assist families with internet or equipment needs. The students will have access to counseling services, school prepared lunches, field trips, clubs, and extracurricular activities. Families will receive text and email messages from building administrators regarding the scheduling of these activities and school events. The District Point of Contact will also communicate with families regarding academic and extracurricular events. School counselors, teachers, and administrators will be aware of the students enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option and will be expected to maintain open lines of communication with these students.

In accordance with the requirements of Title VI, Section 601, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX Section 901, Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Educational Equity Guidelines for Arkansas School Districts as required by Standard XV of Accreditation Standards for Arkansas Schools, the Mansfield Public School District assures that no person in the school district will, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the Mansfield Public School District.

Questions concerning compliance should be submitted to the Equity Compliance Officer:

Tina Smith
402 Grove Street
Mansfield, AR 72944
479-928-4006

Any compliant or grievance concerning compliance may be submitted directly to the Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2600, Dallas, TX 75202.



<p>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.</p>	<p>The Mansfield School District will have in place school policies that require students enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option and Virtual Arkansas to return to campus for K-2 iReady Assessments, for Dibels/progress monitoring, LPA21, DLM, ACT for 11th grade, PSAT, and ACT Aspire Assessments. In addition to the policies in the student handbooks at all school buildings, building administrators and the DTC will communicate with virtual students and their families by phone, email, and text message regarding dates and times students are required to be on campus for testing. All testing data will be shared with the ESC K-6 Virtual option and Virtual Arkansas teachers at their request.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The ESC K-6 Virtual Option teachers and coordinators will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents, schools, and students. The ESC K-6 Virtual option personnel 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 building administrators and district point of contact will also monitor the level of engagement of students and be in communication with the ESC K-6 Virtual personnel regarding the success of enrolled students. The decision to allow enrollment in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option program will remain at the school district level.</p> <p>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.</p>



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 ESC 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 ESC 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 ESC Virtual Option faculty will also conduct parent/teacher conferences as required by state standards. The Mansfield School District will ensure that digital learners enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option have free access to the materials and technology necessary to successfully complete coursework for the program. The district will provide digital students with chromebooks and hotspots if there is a need. The district Technology Director will be available to assist families with internet or equipment needs. School counselors, teachers, and administrators will be aware of the students enrolled in the ESC K-6 Virtual Option and will be expected to maintain open lines of communication with these students.

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, 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://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/225/board_minutes_march_15_2021.c

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

http://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/225/stakeholder_feedback_survey_21_

Policies



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

http://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/225/digital_virtual_policy_april_2021dc

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

http://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/225/digital_virtual_policy_april_2021dc

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

http://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/225/digital_virtual_policy_april_2021dc

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