



# Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: Reviewed

Blevins School District (2901000)

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 #:** 2901000  
**Superintendent:** Stephanie Dixon  
**Email:** stephanie.dixon@blevinshornets.org  
**Phone:** (870) 874-2801  
**Duration Requested (not to exceed five years):** 1 Year  
(School year 2021-2022 to 2022-2023)

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

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
<span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">2901001 - Blevins Elementary School</span>	3-12	<span style="background-color: #808080; color: white; padding: 2px;">Asynchronous</span>	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	<span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">LMS</span>
<span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">2901002 - Blevins High School</span>		<span style="background-color: #808080; color: white; padding: 2px;">Synchronous</span>		



## 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.
<b>Attendance</b>			6-18-213(a)(2)	<p>We are requesting this waiver.</p> <p>Depending on the grade, digital learning gives students and families some control, over time, pace, path, and place for learning. Student attendance in the Blevins Virtual Academy is based on daily login for grades 3-6 and weekly work completion for grades 7-12.</p> <p>District policies and practices regarding student absences apply to virtual academy students. Chronic absenteeism may result in a recommendation to return to onsite instruction or a referral to juvenile court for additional services.</p>
<b>Class Size</b> Number of students:	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812(a)(2)	The district will not be requesting or utilizing the class size waiver. The district will hire additional staff if the class size number is exceeded.



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><b>Teaching Load</b> 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	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812	<p>The district will not be requesting or utilizing the teaching load waiver. The district will pay teacher of record according to the board policy of load size is exceeded and/or a teacher will be hired.</p>
<p><b>Six Hour Instructional Day</b> (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	<p>We are requesting this waiver.</p> <p>Virtual students will have more control over the pace of their coursework compared to those engaged in onsite instruction. Virtual students may work at an accelerated pace and may complete multiple days of work for a class in a shorter amount of time. Therefore, students may not engage in six hours of instruction daily. Some may work ahead, take longer, etc. on some days and work less on other days.</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			<p>We are requesting this waiver.</p> <p>Because virtual students have more control over the pace of their instruction and learning, mastery of grade level standards and completion of coursework may not require 120 clock hours. Some students will require more time to complete a course and it is possible that some students will be able to finish a course in less time. Instruction is designed so that students master the standards; how long that takes each student may vary.</p>
<b>Recess</b> (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)	<p>We are requesting this waiver.</p> <p>Grades 3-6 virtual teachers will encourage students to engage in supervised, unstructured social time, free play and vigorous activity scheduled as part of the day; however, given the nature of virtual school, it is not possible for teachers to ensure this takes place.</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.



# LEA INSIGHTS

All information about our Virtual School is posted publicly on our website at [www.blevinshornets.org](http://www.blevinshornets.org).

The engagement in our Virtual School will be asynchronous and synchronous.

The Blevins Virtual School is an engaging program that provides students with rigorous, personalized learning experiences. Instructional content will be facilitated by certified teachers using the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education standards for accreditation courses, as well as district instructional resources. In order to reduce the need for teacher-created instructional materials, the district will utilize Google Classroom as the learning management system for grades 3-6 and Virtual Arkansas's Canvas learning management system for grades 7-12. Teachers will have the flexibility to create instructional materials that will meet the individual needs of their students. Instruction will include digital instructional materials and Google Meet. Students will attend instruction digitally through the designated learning management system. The interaction in our Virtual School will be asynchronous and synchronous five days a week.

Grades K-2: will not have a digital learning option. All instruction will be onsite.

Grades 3-6: Instruction will take place five days a week. Students will be expected to follow a schedule with synchronous instructional meeting times. The schedule will be posted at [www.blevinshornets.org](http://www.blevinshornets.org). Instruction will be synchronous four days a week with one day reserved for intervention and one on one support. Students will be assigned asynchronous instructional learning tasks to be completed when not meeting synchronously. Students will be required to maintain pace and attend daily synchronous instructional meeting times. Teachers will monitor student work and provide immediate feedback with reteaching if necessary. Teachers will have daily scheduled virtual meeting times. If synchronous learning does not lead to progress in learning, students will be required to return to on-site instruction. Students falling below 70%, at progress report time, will be required to return to on-site instruction. Students will continue to receive instruction on-site for the remainder of the school year.

Grades 7-12: Students will be expected to follow a schedule with synchronous virtual meeting attendance (Zoom) for the first full week of each semester to complete course orientation and to become familiar with the virtual teachers and course procedures. For the remainder of the semester, students will be required to maintain a 70% or higher in each course in order to work on a flexible and independent schedule. Students with a grade between 100% - 80% must attend at least one (1) Zoom meeting per week. Students with a grade of 79% - 70% must attend two (2) or more Zoom meetings per week. Zoom meeting requirements will last throughout the end of the semester.

If a student has a grade of 69% or lower at progress report time, the student must report back to campus and attend Virtual Arkansas classes on-site. At the end of the semester, the student will transition back to on-site (Blevins) classes for the remainder of the school year.



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for the remainder of the school year.

Virtual Arkansas teachers will monitor student coursework and provide feedback to the local Virtual Arkansas facilitator so that the facilitator can then provide weekly feedback to students and parents through email, phone, and/or written communication.

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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.



# LEA INSIGHTS

The district will utilize a virtual, online instructional model. Google Classroom, Google Meet and Virtual Arkansas's Canvas are the learning management system utilized by the district for delivery of instruction and communication.

Grades 3-6: Virtual School teachers will provide instructional content, synchronously, through Google Meet. Students enrolled in the Virtual School will meet four days a week synchronously. Students will participate in state testing, health screenings, response to intervention, instructional support, etc. on campus. Students will be on campus to participate in elementary sports and academic contests.

Grades 7-12: Blevins High School will utilize the Virtual Arkansas instructional model. Students will receive instruction through Virtual Arkansas's Canvas learning management system. For supplemental instruction and for students to be able to ask questions/address concerns, all students will be required to attend regularly scheduled Zoom meetings. Students with a grade between 100% - 80% must attend at least one (1) Zoom meeting per week. Students with a grade of 79% - 70% must attend two (2) or more Zoom meetings per week. Zoom meeting requirements will last throughout the end of the semester.

Students must come to campus for state and interim testing, health screenings, and some types of instructional support and intervention, etc. Students that elect to participate in extracurricular activities must come to campus to attend club and AAA-sanctioned practices and events.





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.

Grades 3-6: Teachers of record for virtual students will serve in a dual role, teaching both remote and in-person learners. Learning will be synchronous with on-site learners. Daily schedules will be posted on [www.blevinshornets.org](http://www.blevinshornets.org).

Grades 7-12: With the exception of some Career and Technical Education (CTE), physical activity/outdoor recreational, music and some art classes, Virtual Arkansas teachers will serve as the teachers of record for all virtual classes. For classes not included in the Virtual Arkansas course catalog, Blevins educators will serve in a dual role as both onsite-site and virtual teachers. In their dual role, these educators will be responsible for monitoring student progress as well as attendance. They will also be responsible for providing weekly feedback to students and parents. Students will be expected to follow a schedule with synchronous virtual meeting attendance (Google Meet) for the first full week of each semester to complete course orientation and to become familiar with course procedures. For the remainder of the semester, students will be required to maintain a 70% or higher in each course in order to work on a flexible and independent schedule. Students with a grade between 100% - 80% must attend at least one (1) Google Meet session per week. Students with a grade of 79% - 70% must attend two (2) or more Google Meet sessions per week. Google Meet session requirements will last throughout the end of the semester. If a student has a grade of 69% or lower at progress report time, the student must report back to campus and attend classes on-site. All coursework will be provided utilizing the Google Classroom platform.

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



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Grades 3-6: During school hours, virtual teachers will engage with students daily following a consistent instructional schedule that will be located on [www.blevinshornets.org](http://www.blevinshornets.org). Instructional content will be provided synchronously and asynchronously. Teachers will interact with students on asynchronous scheduled times by providing recorded lessons, graded feedback, monitored testing sessions, small group instruction, intervention, etc.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas teachers will meet with virtual students on a regularly scheduled basis. All virtual students must attend at least one (1) Zoom meeting each week. Students will be expected to follow a schedule with synchronous virtual meeting attendance (Zoom) for the first full week of each semester to complete course orientation and to become familiar with the virtual teachers and course procedures. For the remainder of the semester, students will be required to maintain a 70% or higher in each course in order to work on a flexible and independent schedule. Students with a grade between 100% - 80% must attend at least one (1) Zoom meeting per week. Students with a grade of 79% - 70% must attend two (2) or more Zoom meetings per week.

For courses not provided by Virtual Arkansas, Blevins teachers will meet with virtual students five days each week. All virtual students in these courses must attend at least five (5) Google Meet sessions each week. Students will be expected to follow a schedule with synchronous virtual meeting attendance (Google Meet) for the first full week of each semester to complete course orientation and to become familiar with course procedures. For the remainder of the semester, students will be required to maintain a 70% or higher in each course in order to work on a flexible and independent schedule. Students with a grade between 100% - 80% must attend at least one (1) Google Meet session per week. Students with a grade of 79% - 70% must attend two (2) or more Google Meet sessions per week.

The Blevins High School Counselor will meet with each virtual student every two weeks, to provide social/emotional support as well as academic guidance. The counselor will utilize Zoom/Google Meet to meet with virtual students.



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?

Grades 3-6: We do not plan to utilize this waiver. We will not exceed the class size permitted.

Grades 7-12: We do not plan to provide additional support to Virtual Arkansas teachers. For Blevins educators, we will provide additional support to monitor student progress and provide student support. An instructional aide will be available to assist Blevins educators with activities such as grading assignments and assessments, technical support during Google Meet sessions, etc.

The Blevins School District will monitor the effectiveness of the supports and need for additional supports by assessing teacher feedback and student achievement.

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

We do not plan to utilize this waiver.

## Technology / Platforms

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

Grades 3-6: The teachers will facilitate learning utilizing the Google Classroom learning management system.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize Canvas as their learning management system. Blevins educators will utilize Google Classroom as their learning management system. Both learning management will be used to deliver content and instruction.

In order to provide consistency and rigor for all students, the Blevins School District will provide content that follows a similar format, policies and procedures for its courses taught by Blevins educators.



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.

Grades 3-6: Classroom teachers will develop the digital content and it will be managed by Google Classroom. The instructional content will replicate the same concepts and material being taught to on-site students. The instructional content is designed to effectively meet essential standards and aligned to state guidelines. Additional supports that will be available to students include: Lexia Core 5, Lexia Power Up, NWEA Learning Continuum, and MAP Skills for Literacy and Math.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize their self-designed content. For classes not available through Virtual Arkansas, Blevins teachers will design content using a variety of resources, including but not limited to: iCEV--for CTE courses, Lincoln Learning--for physical activity, music, and some art classes.

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.

Grades 3-6: The video communication software the district will use is the Google Meet video-communication service. Google Meet will be a standard application tool which all teachers and students will have access to on district provided devices.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize Zoom video conferencing software to communicate with students. Software is provided by the district and included on all student Chromebooks. All student devices also have built in webcam capabilities for video conferencing. For classes not available through Virtual Arkansas, Blevins teachers will utilize Google Meet video conferencing software to communicate with students. Software is included on the teacher and student devices provided by the district. All student and teacher devices also have built in webcam capabilities for video conferencing.



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.

The district provides a Chromebook to all virtual students in grades 3-12. Drive-up wifi is available on campus in the event that students have short-term internet issues.

The District was provided with 30 hotspots that have been paid for through the 2022 school year. If needed, virtual students will be provided with a hotspot. In addition, the District as allocated a portion of ESSER funds for consideration for internet onnectivity to the student's home.

Students experiencing temporary internet outages or the inability to connect will be required to contact the school to establish a plan for missed days of instruction. All district devices are monitored using Bark and filters are in place to meet the requirements of the Children's Information Protection Act.

## 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.



Grades 3-6: Blevins Elementary feels it is important for students to interact with both staff and students, not only to help with student engagement, but also to allow staff to monitor the safety and well being of our students.

Students who participate in virtual school will meet with a teacher or staff member from Blevins school district each day using Google Meet. Students will also be asked to come to the school for testing at least three times a year in person.

Students will have counseling lessons each week with the elementary school counselor. The school counselor will facilitate these lessons synchronously through Google Meet. Students will also have the ability to email counselor and schedule a Google Meet.

The school nurse will monitor vaccination requirements and will require students to come to the school in person for state mandated health screenings.

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the school lunch program by filling out a Google Document each week. Students that qualify for free or reduced meals will receive meals free or at a reduced rate, and the other student meals will be charged to the student's account. Students will pick up meals for each school day once a week at the cafeteria.

Counselors, teachers, and administrators will be trained to notice when students are struggling with physical and/or mental wellbeing. If it is determined that a family or student is in need, quick action will be taken to provide the resources needed. Home visits will be used for students that a teacher or staff member has concerns about.

Grades 7-12: To ensure families are prepared for learning from home, the Blevins School District will require every virtual student and their parent/guardian/family to attend a program entrance orientation. Orientation meetings will be repeated to allow multiple opportunities for students and families to participate. During this event, parents/guardians/families and students will review the virtual learning requirements and guidelines, review their individual schedules, review and sign learning contracts, learn strategies for success in the virtual learning program. Support for students and their families will continue throughout the school year in the form bi-monthly check-ins with the High School Counselor. During the meetings, topics will include: academic progress, upcoming activities they will need to be on-site for, state testing dates, etc.

During the first week of school, students and families will be asked to complete a virtual learning survey to inform their teachers of individual needs and possible support areas, including factors influencing access to food, social and emotional well-being, and academic success.

Virtual families have the option to participate in a weekly meal pickup program through the Blevins Cafeteria. Meals will be available for pickup Wednesday afternoons or evenings and each student will be provided with enough food to



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at noon or evenings and each student will be provided with enough food to last for a school-week (5 days). The meal pickup is at no cost to the students that qualify for free-and-reduced meals. District communication regarding meal pickup is posted on the school website, school Facebook page, and through phone communication.

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.

Grades 3-6: Academic success or lack of engagement will be monitored using Eschool attendance records, response to intervention small groups, daily Google Meet, NWEA Map scores, Lexia, Renaissance AR STAR, and progress report/report card grades every four weeks. Students below 70% at progress report or student testing scores fall below one grade level on NWEA MAP will be required to come back to school for onsite learning.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas teachers will monitor student coursework and provide feedback to the local Virtual Arkansas facilitator so that the facilitator can then provide weekly feedback to students and parents through email, phone, and/or written communication.

Blevins teachers will monitor student coursework and provide feedback to students and families utilizing the same progress report and report card schedule used for on-site students.

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



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Grades 3-6: Students not making the required daily academic progress or are not engaged consistently will receive teacher intervention by the assigned virtual teacher. These interventions may include a phone call to the parents, creating a student individualized intervention plan with student goals, parent online access to students grades, mandatory virtual meetings, and increased time spent on coursework. Also, Lexia, a digital learning platform,

Students continuing not to meet the required daily academic progress expectations after receiving interventions will be required to return to school onsite if the students grades at progress report are below 70% or if the student's NWEA MAP test scores fall a grade level.

Special education, English Language Learner, Dyslexia, 504 plans, and other related services will be provided remotely as available if the committee determines this would be the best option for the student. Students may be required to meet onsite for specific services and assessments.

Grades 7-12: Students will be required to maintain a 70% or higher in each course in order to work on a flexible and independent schedule. If a student has a grade of 69% or lower at progress report time, the student must report back to campus and attend Virtual Arkansas classes on-site. At the end of the semester, the student will transition back to on-site (Blevins) classes for the remainder of the school year. If a student is not making the required daily academic progress or is not engaging consistently, the student's teacher will intervene. The interventions may include, but are not limited to:

Teacher activity:

Phone calls, letters, and/or emails to the students and parents/guardians/families

Academic coaching/tutoring

Student activity:

Completion of specific daily and/or weekly goals determined by the teacher, student and parent/guardian/family and accomplished by the student.

Participation in meetings with the teacher and parent/guardian/family to monitor progress.

Increased time spent on coursework.

Remediation with a teacher to ensure success on assignments.

Students may continue or elect to enroll in school-based counseling services on campus or remotely.

All services provided by support programs, including Special Education, English Language Learner, or 504, will be provided remotely as available. Students may be required to meet on-site for specific services and assessments.

Support personnel include, but are not limited to:

Social Workers

Counseling/Mental Health Coordinator

Gifted and Talented Coordinator

Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) Coordinator

Special Education Director





Special Education Director  
English Language Learner Coordinator  
Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Specialists  
Blevins High School Counselor  
504 Plan Coordinator

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



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Grades 3-6: Both formative and summative assessment, classwork, discipline, student engagement and attendance data will be used in all academic decisions.

Students will complete assessments at the beginning, middle and end of the year onsite using the NWEA MAP test, and AR Renaissance Star. Students will set goals in both reading and math using data from the NWEA MAP tests and students will reflect on the data and set new goals after each test. The ACT Aspire test will be given at the end of the year and scores will be compared to the scores from the previous year.

Teachers will progress monitor students every two or three weeks and provide support during Response to Intervention. Teachers will keep parents informed of the students progress by communicating with them once every two weeks. Teachers will discuss progress with students during the virtual student google meet.

Grades 7-12: Instructional decisions will be made using multiple data points, including: formative and summative assessment results, classwork, and student engagement data (attendance, discipline data, mobility information from the current school year and past school years). All course curriculum is aligned with state standards. Instructional support will be provided by the district academic coaches, interventionists, and specialists as needed.

Teachers will complete bi-monthly progress monitoring of students. Progress reports will be sent home with students, signed by the parents/guardians/families, and returned to the teacher of their first class of the day.

District and state assessments will be outlined in the Blevins Virtual Student Handbook with dates for each test. When possible, based on assessment requirements, families will be provided with flexible scheduling options for the assessment (local formative assessments, ACT Aspire interim assessments, screening assessments); however, exams with required start times (ACT, ACT Aspire, AP, etc.) will not run on flexible schedules.



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

The District will ensure all requirements of the dyslexia law are met for on-site and remote learners.

Grades 3-6: Students in grades K-2nd, are pre-screened for dyslexia traits. Dyslexia services are provided by a certified dyslexia specialist using Barton to monitor students and Sonday for tier III student intervention services. Tier III interventions will take place by synchronous instruction 3 days per week with added asynchronous assignments for students to develop independent reading skills. Students and parents/guardians/families will have the option of virtual or onsite screenings. Sonday Level I screenings can be completed virtually, but Level II screening must be completed in person.

Grades 7-12: Students and parents/guardians/families will have the option of virtual or on-site screening for Sonday Level screenings. Sonday Level II screenings must be completed in person. Interventions and services will be determined based on the results of the screening and the students grade level.

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



The District will ensure all GT Program Approval Standards are met for on-site and remote learners.

Grades 3-6: Gifted and Talented services will be provided remotely by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, using Google Classroom in accordance to the State approved Gifted and Talented Program Approval standards. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will provide optional enrichment activities and extension activities for students that may complete their work ahead of time and need something additional. Virtual students that are referred for testing must attend onsite to be tested. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will also encourage students to participate in Virtual Quiz Bowl, Spelling Bees, etc.

Grades 7 and 8: Gifted and Talented services will be provided remotely by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, using the Google Classroom platform. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will provide two enrichment opportunities each month. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator will also encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities including, but not limited to: Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) essay writing contest, Virtual Quiz Bowl, Virtual Chess competition, etc. All students (including virtual students) will also have the opportunity to enroll in Pre-AP and/or Honors courses.

Grades 9-12: Students in these grades will be serviced for Gifted and Talented by being provided with the opportunity to enroll in AP (Advanced Placement) courses. Courses available include, but are not limited to: AP Computer Science, AP Literature, AP Calculus, AP United States History, and AP Biology.

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



The District will ensure all requirements of the District English Learner plan have been met for on-site and remote learners.

Grades 3-6: Student proficiency assessments will be scheduled on site with the ESL coordinator. According to a student's Language Instruction Education Program (LIEP) code, ESL services will be provided based on recommendations from the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC). ESL trained staff will provide ESL services and accommodations remotely via the learning management system Google Classroom. Students will be scheduled on site for the ELPA 21 summative assessment, according to federal and state mandates for serving English Learners. Our teachers communicate with families through the Google Meet format, phone calls and emails. Interpreters are provided for administrators, counselors and teachers to communicate with families and students when needed.

Grades 7-12: Evaluations will be scheduled on-site with the ESL Coordinator. Accommodations will be provided through the learning management systems for both Blevins School District and Virtual Arkansas teachers. Students MUST return on-site for ELPA 21 testing. Staffing ratios for ESL services will be based on program standards and time will be scheduled in the day for providing virtual services proportional to student enrollment.

The ESL Coordinator will collaborate with Virtual Arkansas and Blevins teachers to properly scaffold instruction and to accommodate assessments. The ESL Coordinator will attend regular classroom meetings with students as needed, in order to support the student and the General Education teacher.

Our ESL teachers frequently communicate with families through the Google Meet format, phone calls and emails. Interpreters are provided for administrators, counselors and teachers to communicate with families and students. When needed, ESL staff make home visits to deliver instructional materials, help with technology issues, and/or to provide support and encouragement to the student and family.

Our district is committed to our ESL students and their families. In addition to the methods of service and support provided above, our staff will continue to meet new needs as they arise with students, teachers and families.



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 will be provided based on rules and regulations.

Grades 3-6: All assessments for MAP, Dibels, STAR, and ACT Aspire will be onsite. All evaluations for special education services, and 504 services will be onsite. Conferences and support for parents will be given using in person, Google Meets, phone conversations, Google Classroom, or email.

An IEP team will decide if virtual learning is in the best interest of a student and what accommodations would be needed for the student to be a virtual learner. If a special education student is not engaged in virtual learning, the IEP team can meet and decide if the student should return to school face to face.

Virtual special education students and students receiving 504 accommodations will receive instructions both asynchronous and synchronous using Google Classroom and Google Meet. All virtual learning should follow the students IEP.

Also, all related services and support services will be given to the student through Google meets or in person and the providers of these services will determine if the student needs any additional equipment for learning at home.

Grades 7-12: Special Education services and supports will be determined by the student's IEP Committee. This committee will determine the method for delivery of services that best meets the needs of the child and agreed upon by all parties, including district and parents/guardians. Accommodations will be provided through the learning management systems (for both Virtual Arkansas and Blevins School District classes). Students will be scheduled on-site for special education evaluations. Conferences can be conducted by choice of parent; virtually, by phone or onsite.

Students who receive Special Education services, will still have to report to campus for on-site assessments, such as, but not limited to, ACT Aspire, ACT, AP, etc.

504 services and supports will be provided through the learning management systems (for both Virtual Arkansas and Blevins School District classes). Conferences can be conducted by choice of parent; virtually, by phone or onsite. Students who receive 504 services and supports, will still have to report to campus for on-site assessments, such as, but not limited to, ACT Aspire, ACT, AP, etc.



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 tools embedded in learning platforms, extended time on assignments, flexible assignments, and adaptive intervention resources. Meetings may be held to determine additional accommodations based on individual student needs.

## Teacher Supports

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

Blevins School District teachers will receive initial professional development training for the use of the Google Classroom and Meet platform. Updated training will be provided throughout the year as needed.

Campus and district administrators will actively monitor online instruction. Campus and district administrators can “walk in” to online classes throughout the day to monitor instructional delivery and students needs.

We will also collaborate with our Southwest Arkansas Educational Co-op, AASCD, regional colleagues, and others to support our teachers, monitor and adjust our programs and provide the help from various specialists.



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?

Grades 3-6: A minimum of 200 minutes of scheduled planning times is given to certified staff each week. Certified staff will also be required to participate in a Professional Learning Community once a month where teachers receive training and collaborative support and a campus and district meeting once a month where they receive training and support from administrators.

The district employees specialist and coaches in various subject areas through the Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative. The district also employees a full time technology director to assist teachers with digital supports and digital content training.

Some teachers also have paraprofessionals for additional support.

Grades 7-12: Virtual Arkansas will be responsible for arranging and managing the planning time and instructional support for its teachers.

All Blevins School District teachers will be scheduled for a minimum of 200 minutes of planning time and instructional support for its teachers. Virtual training regarding Google Classroom training will be available for teachers at [https://edu.google.com/teacher-center/products/classroom/?modal\\_active=none](https://edu.google.com/teacher-center/products/classroom/?modal_active=none).

## 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 Blevins School District shall place an equal emphasis upon the nondiscriminatory provision of educational opportunities for children and no person shall be denied the benefits of any education program or activity on the basis of race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex. All 10 programs offered by the Blevins School District will be open to all students in compliance with statutory and judicial requirements. This policy can be found in the Blevins School District Student Handbook and online at [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/916749/Student\\_Handbook\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/916749/Student_Handbook_2020-2021.pdf).

The Blevins School District Technology Coordinator will be available to provide families with support Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 3:00PM. The Technology Coordinator can be reached by email at [techsupport@blevinshornets.org](mailto:techsupport@blevinshornets.org) or [chromebookhelp@blevinshornets.org](mailto:chromebookhelp@blevinshornets.org) or by phone at 870-874-2281. Public access, drive up Wi-Fi is available for families Monday through Friday 4:00PM to 6:00AM or Saturday and Sunday 24 hours.

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.



# LEA INSIGHTS

In order to ensure that parents cooperate to bring students on-site to test, the District will first require that parents make transportation arrangements. If parents are unable to bring students on-site, transportation will be provided (depending upon circumstance). Students could be required to return back on-site if parents are still reluctant to cooperate.

Grades 3-6: All statewide assessments will take place onsite. Parents will receive and sign a letter stating they understand the program requirements and agree to bring their student to the school for onsite testing. This letter will state the requirements by both the student and parent, and will also contain the parent contract to help ensure student success.

Before each test, parents will have a letter mailed listing the testing date, time and location. The virtual student's homeroom teacher will also make every attempt to contact the parent of the virtual student to make sure they received the letter and know when and where the testing will take place.

Grades 7-12: Parents will be notified of the on-site testing requirements during initial enrollment into the Blevins Virtual Academy, within the Blevins School District Student Handbook, in weekly updates/communication (phone calls, mail, email) leading up to each test administration.

The district will utilize DESE guidelines when testing virtual students, including, but not limited to: testing virtual students as a separate cohort from their grade-level group and organizing small group virtual testing rooms to accommodate the need for additional social distancing.



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 District will use the data to evaluate the digital program. The frequency of review will be twice per nine weeks.

The data collected will be used to drive the decision making process of the district's digital learning plan. The data collected will be used to refine the program and/or to improve areas to meet the objective goals of the digital learning plan. The data collected will also be used to ensure that students are reaching their optimal growth and benchmarks.

Grades 3-6: The effectiveness of the program will be monitored by attendance in Google Meet, monitoring report cards and daily grades, as well as MAP testing of reading and math skills three times a year, the ACT Aspire at the end of the year, and the Renaissance STAR Reading test three times a year.

Grades 7-12: In order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the virtual learning program, the district will monitor daily attendance and grades as well as MAP testing of reading and math skills and ACT Interim testing scores.

Blevins School District administrators will monitor the Google Classroom platform for student progress for campus-specific classes. Virtual Arkansas teachers will communicate student progress with the Blevins School District through the campus facilitator.



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 District will provide digital supports and resources to students and families through on-site training sessions and stakeholder meetings. The District's technology department will be available to parents, families, and students during scheduled hours via on-site meetings and phone conversations.

Two-way communication with families and their input is critical to our success as a school. Communication of school activities, student support options, and events are shared by administrators via email, phone calls, the district website, and district Facebook page.

The Blevins School District Family and Community Engagement plan can be found at: [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/1006457/Parent\\_and\\_Family\\_Engagement\\_20-21.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1006457/Parent_and_Family_Engagement_20-21.pdf)

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

The approval request is on the agenda for June 14, 2021. <https://docs.google.com>

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/1pqVAGeEmW0sDatx\\_mYNNCFyZfK5i6](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pqVAGeEmW0sDatx_mYNNCFyZfK5i6)

## Policies

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

[https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/939562/4](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/939562/4)

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

[https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/916749/9](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/916749/9)

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

[https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/916749/9](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/916749/9)

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