



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita) (5205000)

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 #: 5205000
Superintendent: Albert Snow
Email: snowa@hgsd1.com
Phone: (870) 574-0971
Duration Requested (not to exceed five years): 5 Years
 (School year 2021-2022 to 2026-2027)

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

LEA(s)	Grades/Courses	Interaction	Delivery	Platforms
5205029 - Harmony Grove High School	7-12	Asynchronous Synchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS CMS



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)	<p>Virtual Arkansas has attendance reports that can be run by the local facilitator. These reports will let you know if the student has logged in for the day and if they have logged into each course.</p> <p>The digital learning facilitator will record attendance in e-school.</p>
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>We are not requesting additional waivers for the teaching load.</p> <p>The Virtual Teacher 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> <p>Harmony Grove will have no more than 30 students enrolled in remote learning under this plan. The current digital learning facilitator will be responsible for monitoring this group of students.</p> <p>Harmony Grove employs a digital learning facilitator who will be responsible for students both on and off campus who are involved in digital learning courses. If or when the total student load exceeds 120 students, the district will employ a second digital learning facilitator.</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
<p>Teaching Load Number of students:</p> <p>Teacher of Record provides virtual instruction to only students who are remote. Please note that 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.</p>	1-A.5	DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load	6-17-812	<p>We are not requesting additional waivers for the teaching load.</p> <p>The Virtual Teacher 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>
<p>Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	<p>We are requesting the six hour instructional day waiver. Research shows students in grades 7-12 benefit from a shortened instructional day when learning virtually. The daily schedules for students will include 6 hours of learning; however, it may not take students the entire allotted time to successfully engage with the learning</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			We are requesting the clock hour waiver. 100% virtual students are working to master standards which takes a broad range of time. With Virtual Arkansas' asynchronous and synchronous approach, student learning may not equal a total of 120 clock hours.
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)	N/A for grades 7-12. Virtual Arkansas does provide PE and Health as an offering for 7-12 grade students.

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.

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. Students can request additional one-on-one Zoom sessions as needed. Harmony Grove students will be required to attend a minimum of two Zoom sessions a week. Students will be required to check e-mail communications daily. All lockdown browser requirements will take place on the Harmony Grove campus. 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.

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.

Harmony Grove School District will utilize online virtual remote learning through Virtual Arkansas. Virtual Arkansas utilizes a synchronous and asynchronous approach or true blended model to online learning. Students will engage in their digital coursework through the CANVAS Learning Management System (LMS). Students will have opportunities to engage in synchronous learning through live scheduled Zoom meetings with their 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.

Harmony Grove School District will be using Virtual Arkansas for its delivery of instruction for our 100% virtual students. Virtual Arkansas provides a fully certified Arkansas teacher of record while we provide the facilitator. Harmony Grove employs a digital learning facilitator who will be responsible for students both on and off campus who are involved in digital learning courses. If or when the total student load exceeds 120 students the district will employ a second digital learning facilitator. 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. The facilitator is a veteran classified employee with three years of experience in the digital learning classroom. Virtual Arkansas provides annual training and continuous assistance for any issues with technology. The facilitator serves as the liaison between the students and the VA teachers and instructors.

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

For students utilizing Virtual Arkansas courses, teachers actively monitor their courses, provide synchronous sessions and maintain regular communication via the LMS and SIS messaging systems. Each week teachers send a grade report to the student and parent/guardian, and initiate further contact with students demonstrating difficulties with course content. Students are required to attend two Zoom sessions a week per content area. 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?

We are not requesting additional waivers for class size. The Virtual Teacher 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.
Virtual Arkansas partners with schools to ensure student success. In cases where districts are using Virtual Arkansas, teacher training and support is solely the responsibility of Virtual Arkansas. Partnership with the schools regarding providing a facilitator and communication back and forth pertaining to students is an ongoing part of the support expected in this model (synchronous/asynchronous) of instruction.



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 are not requesting additional waivers for teacher load. The Virtual Teacher 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.

Virtual Arkansas partners with schools to ensure student success. In cases where districts are using Virtual Arkansas, teacher training and support is solely the responsibility of Virtual Arkansas. Partnership with the schools regarding providing a facilitator and communication back and forth pertaining to students is an ongoing part of the support expected in this model (synchronous/asynchronous) of instruction.

Technology / Platforms

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

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas. This LMS is supplemented with the Student Information System (SIS) Genius. Genius is a registration, progress monitoring, and reporting tool which provides a daily snapshot of each student's progress, attendance, and engagement level.

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.



LEA INSIGHTS

Virtual Arkansas provides access to 139 courses in grades 7-12 which are designed and written by subject matter experts (SME's) and 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.

The digital content will be available to students within a platform that provides creation, publication, and student progress tracking capabilities. Students will have access to age-appropriate, engaging lessons, and tools that support learning, including text to speech, audio and translation, text and picture dictionaries, and more. Digital content combines direct-instruction videos featuring expert, virtual teachers with rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage students and ensure subject-area mastery. The digital content features self-paced learning, which allows students to spend more time on what they need and less on the content they've already mastered. If a student needs additional support to master a learning goal, the digital instruction is designed to provide point-in-time resources and support. The digital content gives Virtual Teachers the resources they need to close learning gaps, plan lessons, execute goals, measure success, and intervene to help students grow. Virtual teachers receive initial and ongoing training on the digital content which includes, navigating the digital content, customizing courses and assessments, troubleshooting, adding activities, planning instruction, and designing interventions. Virtual facilitators receive initial and ongoing training to support the students assigned to them. Virtual teachers and virtual facilitators will have ongoing support from the Virtual Arkansas Facilitator Coordinator, Virtual Arkansas Specialists and Administration, Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative, Southeast Education Service Cooperative, and Dawson Education Service Cooperative Content Specialists, and Virtual Campus Coordinator.



What video communication software is required for any remote student? Please describe the video communication software the teacher will use to facilitate live conferences between two or more participants.

Students 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. ZOOM provides a suite of teaching and learning features which include recording, polling, break-out rooms, whiteboard with collaborative and annotation tools, chat, translations, screen sharing, hand raising, reaction emoticons, and remote control option. The remote control option is where the Virtual Teacher is given permission to take control of the user's computer screen to provide navigation and technical support. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule is placed in a common location within each course and communicated with students and virtual facilitators.

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.

Harmony Grove School District provides students with a Chromebook device and a wifi hotspot as needed by the student. The school provides access to the internet at the following locations: Harmony Grove campus, Sparkman campus, Ouachita Electric Cooperative, Ouachita County Library, and the South Central Service Cooperative.

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 digital learning facilitator will be in at least weekly contact with remote learning students. The facilitator will report any concerns with the school counselor. The facilitator is available Monday-Friday from 7:30-3:30. Students may pick up meals daily or meals for multiple days at the school cafeteria. It is possible to deliver hardcopy information and meals by school bus transportation provided the student resides along a current school transportation route.

The Harmony Grove counselor is available by phone or email to assist students and parents with any mental health issue.

The Harmony Grove School District Digital Learning Facilitator will stay in weekly contact with Virtual Arkansas teachers to ensure wellness checks regarding physical and mental health are occurring. Concerns will be shared between organizations to best meet the needs of students. Again, any concerns will be immediately forwarded to the school counselor.

Virtual Arkansas teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. Virtual Arkansas uses a variety of methods of communication to do this and partners with schools to ensure students are cared for. When a situation arises where intervention is determined to be needed beyond what can be done virtually, Virtual Arkansas will contact the partnering school including the facilitator and counselor to step in to provide intervention. Virtual Arkansas teachers are trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas provides ongoing professional development to their teachers to support SEL 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.

Harmony Grove School has access to the Virtual Arkansas Genius SIS and the CANVAS LMS to monitor students in real time. Virtual Arkansas teachers will initiate intervention when a teacher determines a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. In cases where needed, Virtual Arkansas will involve the partnering school through the facilitator, first. Virtual Arkansas will contact the administrator or request the administrator to be contacted if the initial intervention is not successful.

Students enrolled in digital learning courses both remote and in person are monitored for academic success on a weekly basis by the facilitator. Students failing to maintain a minimum of a 70% average in a course will be offered intervention on campus. Students failing to maintain a minimum of a 70% in a course at the conclusion of the grading period will be required to return to campus and to "face to face" instruction.

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



LEA INSIGHTS

Harmony Grove will make available the facilitator, counselor, and administrator to assist in scheduling the intervention with a student requiring Tier II and III interventions. If additional Tier II virtual interventions are needed beyond the support that Virtual Arkansas provides, then local Tier II interventions will be done on-site by the district reading specialist using the Sondag System Program. She will monitor to determine if students need to continue this support or be evaluated for more intensive support. If a student is not progressing after being progress monitored, then they will be evaluated for characteristics of Dyslexia with Level II Screeners. After an evaluation, if a student is showing that they have characteristics of Dyslexia, then they will be offered Tier III interventions using the Take Flight Program.

Additionally, Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained in the RTI process to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier I and II interventions and, if those are not successful, reach out to the partnering school regarding additional Tier II or Tier III 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.

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

Harmony Grove will maintain communication with VA concerning student success on assessments and the support necessary for the student to maintain long term success in the course.

Virtual Arkansas courses 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. These strategies of formative assessment, both formal and informal, are utilized in order to guide the RTI process and methods of intervention.



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

Harmony Grove School District will ensure all requirements of the dyslexia law are met for onsite and remote learners. Students identified with dyslexia characteristics will receive on site interventions through the Take Flight Program. These interventions will be facilitated by the Harmony Grove dyslexia interventionist.

Students identified with characteristics of Dyslexia after Level II Screeners, will be offered a choice of services virtually or face-to-face using the Take Flight Program by Scottish Rite. Transportation will be provided for students that need to attend interventions on campus.

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

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



All current 7-12 grade Virtual Arkansas teachers will deliver the GT Program Option of Secondary Course Content (I.C, pg 21, GT Program Approval Standards). These teachers have completed Secondary Course Content training and will provide copies of training certificates and quarterly documentation of differentiation to participating districts, as required in the description of this program option in GT Program Approval Standards. Virtual Arkansas will ensure that any new hires will also complete this required training in order to provide this GT program option. Training and differentiation documentation will be obtained by contacting Kirsten Wilson, Virtual Arkansas Director of Curriculum and Instruction. An approved teacher of the gifted (licensed GT coordinator/GT teacher), employed by the participating school district maintains oversight of the students' activities at a minimum by collecting differentiation documentation on at least a quarterly basis and meeting with identified students monthly, as required by I.C.3 from GT Program Approval Standards.

The following AP courses will also be available to 10th-12th grade students through Virtual Arkansas: all AP courses available in the VA course catalog will be available for Harmony Grove students to enroll. Rebecca Mills, Virtual Arkansas AP Coordinator, will provide documentation of required AP teacher training and copies of approved AP syllabi for each course the district provides.

The following concurrent credit courses are available to 10th-12th grade students through Virtual Arkansas: all concurrent credit courses listed in the VA course catalog will be available for Harmony Grove students to enroll.

The participating district will ensure all requirements from GT Program Approval Standards will be maintained for virtual services.

Referrals - The District Gifted and Talented Coordinator will solicit information from the Virtual Teachers needed for the Gifted and Talented identification process.

All requirements from the Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards will be met for virtual students



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

The Harmony Grove School District will ensure that all requirements of the District English Learner plan are met for on-site and remote learners, including ELPA21 screening and summative assessment provided by the district. Communication with families will be in a language and manner families will understand.

All ELL accommodations are determined by the districts' Language Proficiency and Assessment Committee (LPAC) and will be shared with the virtual platform providers who will ensure accommodations are provided so that English Learners have access to the core curriculum via providing integrated supports. The district will regularly communicate with the virtual platform provider regarding the ELL students' progress and make any necessary adjustments to needed accommodations and supports.

For students choosing your virtual option, complete the following to describe how ELD services will be provided:

The ESOL Coordinator will have a list of students who are virtual or online. The coordinator will collaborate with the teachers to ensure the appropriate supports are utilized. The student will be provided with the district language program or service available for the appropriate student language level and need.

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



Virtual Arkansas teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested. Harmony Grove School District will upload the modification/accommodation sheet to the Student Information System (SIS) within the first 10 days of school or enrollment if enrollment occurs after school begins. Virtual Arkansas courses are designed in such a way that all applicable accommodations/modifications can be met in the course in conjunction with services provided by the partnering school.

Special Education Evaluations will be done in person at the school district. Every consideration will be given to the students safety and privacy. Evaluations may take place on a flexible schedule to accommodate students and families schedules.

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 students 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.

Virtual Teachers use curriculum and instructional strategies that include the following evidence-based practices, including Universal Design for Learning, which is designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities:

1. Provide explicit instruction,
2. Model learning strategies,
3. Make instruction accessible,
4. Provide tools to support learning, provide appropriate feedback, and capitalize on technology.

The digital curriculum and learning management system provide accommodations for Special Education students and families. These accommodations include addressing multiple learning preferences, accommodations for assessments, video captions/transcripts, color and contrast considerations, read-aloud and translation tools, multiple means of representation of key concepts (verbal, concrete manipulative, numerical, graphical, and symbolic.) For Special Education students with language challenges, Virtual Teachers can enable Canvas' embedded ReadSpeaker tool, a robust language-support, feature. This tool allows students to hear on-screen text read aloud. Students and families will be supported in using the tools during asynchronous learning through the initial course orientation and the Virtual Teacher will facilitate the usage of the tools, as needed, during synchronous learning.

Each student will have a remote learning plan (RLP) that is individualized to the student's specific needs. The RLP becomes part of the students' IEP for the 2021-2022 school year.

The RLP is being created and reviewed at the annual review conferences during the Spring of 2021 conferences or during a change of placement conference.



LEA INSIGHTS

IEP students will be provided with onsite services for physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavior therapy in order to meet the specific requirements of the student's IEP.

All meetings and reviews will occur on site unless the parent requests a virtual conference.

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.



All Virtual Teachers receive training on and have access to digital software/resources to ensure courses are adaptable to include interactive video tutorials, narrated text, concept maps, digital slide presentations, and usage of images. Interventions may be provided using online tools and assistive technology. Online tools and assistive technology will be available to Virtual general education teachers. Tools will include an interactive whiteboard, annotation tools, mirror image setting, text-to-speech translators, and speech-to-text transcribers.

Virtual Arkansas courses meet the guidelines of IDEA and Section 508. All courses are evaluated for accessibility using Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas utilizes embedded tools including ReadSpeaker to provide for students who need content read aloud. Virtual Arkansas also follows the Universal Design for Learning Principles to eliminate both visible and invisible barriers to learning.

The school will provide parents and students an on site tutorial training prior to the beginning of school to assist in the operation of the learning platforms and where to locate assistance and help with the various issues associated with offsite learning through the Virtual Arkansas platform.

Teacher Supports



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

Harmony Grove School District will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas as our digital content and digital instruction solution. Virtual Arkansas provides robust online teacher training and development for all new teachers entering the field of online teaching. All Virtual Arkansas teachers are provided both directed/scheduled and embedded professional development activities, book studies, and weekly collaborative teams. Virtual Arkansas provides a team of instructional and digital content experts for just-in-time support for all teachers. Virtual Arkansas also has a team of technology support specialists to assist with any technology.

As part of the Professional Learning Community process, Virtual Teachers will use student data to drive a continuous plan-do-check cycle of improvement. If there is a support need beyond what the Virtual teacher can provide, the Virtual Campus Coordinator will facilitate the support. On-going and job-embedded support will occur throughout the school year based on student achievement data and classroom observations.

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?

Harmony Grove School District will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution. The Virtual Arkansas teachers will be scheduled with a minimum of two hundred (200) minutes each week for each teacher to schedule time for conferences, instructional planning, and preparation. 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. Prior to the start of school, Virtual Arkansas will support Virtual Teachers with digital content and planning through training on the primary digital content. This training includes guides for recommended pacing, adding supplemental content, and navigating the platform. This digital content and planning component will be supported by Virtual Arkansas.

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.

Harmony Grove School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin or disability in any of its policies, practices or procedures.

Equitable access will be ensured by the Harmony Grove School District:

Access to technology devices and support in accessing internet connectivity.

Funding for educational services will be provided equitably.

Procedures for intervention for student support and success will follow normal district procedures for all students.

All students support programs will be utilized to ensure student access and support. Special Education, ESL, GT, etc.

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.



Virtual Arkansas requires trained proctors for major assessments. Harmony Grove School District's plan for students to take proctored assessments includes:

Statewide summative testing will take place on site as scheduled and within the window established by DESE.

Parents and students will be notified of testing requirements and dates of testing.

Virtual students will be tested utilizing the guidelines established DESE in reference to the testing of virtual students.

If a parent refuses to bring a child onto the campus for assessments, every effort will be made to ensure that the child's safety and privacy will be respected. Parents will have the opportunity to bring their children at a flexible time when other students are not on campus. Transportation will also be provided. Parents will be provided with information regarding the importance of testing and how it can impact their child's education.

Districts partnering with Virtual Arkansas will sign a memorandum of understanding to acknowledge this requirement. Communication with parents will include teacher emails, information posted within the announcement section of the learning management system, information via the learning management system with push notifications, and using the learning management system parent application.

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.



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.

The 7-12 virtual option will be closely monitored for effectiveness by the District Superintendent, District Central Office Staff, and District Principal in partnership with Virtual Arkansas, and the Executive Director of Virtual Arkansas, along with Virtual Arkansas Academic Leadership team. Components that affect student achievement are addressed below.

Teacher Effectiveness: Virtual Arkansas will follow Arkansas Teacher Effectiveness Support System along with the National Standards for Online Teaching for teacher evaluations with scheduled and non scheduled virtual classroom visits.

Curriculum Effectiveness: The content in the learning management system will be reviewed formally on an annual basis through the Quality Matters K-12 Standards for Quality by Quality Matters trained virtual staff to ensure Arkansas standards and International standards for quality are being met. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas is in the process of having a variety of courses reviewed by Quality Matters to earn the Quality Matters Certification.

Student Achievement: Student learning will be monitored through formative and summative assessments. This monitoring will be in the form of a Professional Learning Community composed of Virtual Arkansas Teachers and Administration.

Data Sources: Monitoring, assessing, reflection on data (inferences and next steps). Parent, student, and staff (virtual) surveys will be conducted at least once per year to monitor the effectiveness of the services. These surveys will be conducted via Google Forms in the Fall and in the Spring.

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)

Harmony Grove School District will conduct an orientation with parents and students enrolling in Virtual Arkansas courses for offsite and onsite learning. This will be a mandatory orientation occurring no less than 5 days prior to the first day of school.

The digital learning facilitator will be available for parent and student assistance during the school week by phone, in person, and via email.

Family/Parent feedback is important to the continuous improvement of the program and for student success. Parents are provided with strategies to support student learning.

Parents will receive access to student reports and progress with virtual course work.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/371/harmony_grove_high_school_parent_and_family_engagement_plan_2020_-_2021.pdf

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 students activity and grades within the course. Family engagement is highly valued and encouraged throughout the year by providing regular Virtual Arkansas updates, emails from teachers, just in time meetings at the local level, and up to date information on the Virtual Arkansas website, including the Virtual Arkansas Parent Guide (https://www.virtualarkansas.org/293342_2).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJfCfYr5qkMPKS5UBVYL-PewMgj9jFVBWXAYGNIDnAfW_16Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUrDyZ4gfrf5VmKHJt8LY_fwZIBMpY8jcaviWc9SZIhdWSaw/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SUJpcpYMYRuo6pcFdTp0_ZmVBKxBC7ja/view?



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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MYu004JrxJxQwM9IPvlt6j2eqcjZQ4XU/view?us>

Policies

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

Student's enrollment and participation in off site courses will be monitored by th

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

Harmony Grove virtual students will be subject to the standard discipline policie.

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

Students enrolled in Virtual Arkansas will follow the district grading policies for s

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