



Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

Nashville School District (3105000)

School Year 2021-2022

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 #: 3105000
Superintendent: Douglas Graham
Email: doug.graham@nashvillesd.com
Phone: (870) 845-3425
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
3105009 - Nashville Elementary School 3105011 - Nashville High School	k-12	Asynchronous Synchronous	Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance)	LMS
3105010 - Nashville Junior High School 3105012 - Nashville Primary 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)	



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 Nashville School District will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through the Edmentum EdOptions Academy K-12 Virtual option. The program will provide instruction using an asynchronous and synchronous online learning model that also provides 1:1 tutoring and feedback for students. Students will engage in digital coursework through Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) for grades 6-12. All students will have the opportunity to participate in live Zoom sessions with the teacher, which are all Arkansas-licensed teachers. All learning and instruction will be virtual. Lessons are recorded by Edmentum EdOptions Academy teachers to support learning and provide flexibility. Recorded lessons can be used to introduce skills before learners engage in independent practice and submit assignments for review and acceleration. Edmentum EdOptions Academy teachers will consistently connect with students and Family Learning Guides throughout the academic year to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage engagement in the learning journey • Develop a partnership, create comfort, and build rapport • Share data and progress monitoring • Highlight opportunities for growth and celebrate glows • Provide a great experience <p>Due to the nature of asynchronous learning, the district requests the attendance waiver. Attendance in the EdOptions Academy virtual option will be measured through daily student engagement. Students who are consistently not engaged may be removed from the virtual option and returned to on-site instruction.</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.
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 class size. Nashville School District's teachers will not be teaching any virtual students. Therefore our class size ratios will not be affected. Edmentum has Arkansas certified teachers that will teach our virtual students. 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>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>	<p>1-A.5</p>	<p>DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load</p>	<p>6-17-812</p>	<p>We are not requesting additional waivers for teaching load. 100% virtual (online) or remote (distance) classes are considered large group instruction courses as per DESE Rules for Distance and Digital Learning and teaching load would not apply as per DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load.</p>



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>Six Hour Instructional Day (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)</p>	1-A.4.2		6-16-102; 6-16-126	<p>Students will have some control over time, place, and pace in the EdOptions Academy virtual option. The district and EdOptions Academy will work with students and parents to ensure engagement in the flexible environment. The instructional day will be measured through student engagement and mastery of content</p>
<p>Clock Hours</p>	1-A.2			<p>Students will have some control over time, place, and pace in the EdOptions Academy virtual option. The district is requesting the clock hours waiver. The district and EdOptions Academy will work with students and parents to ensure engagement in the flexible environment. The instructional day will be measured through student engagement and mastery of content</p>



Waiver Topic	Standard for Accreditation	Division Rules	Arkansas Statutes	Indicate if the district is applying for the waiver and explain how the district waiver will be utilized.
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)	Physical activity (40 min daily) and nutrition standards will be embedded in the curriculum of classes as is appropriate. Required health screenings will be scheduled and conducted at the school. We are requesting the recess waiver. The district is requesting the recess waiver.

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

The EdOptions Academy is a multi-faceted approach to virtual instruction that is set up as both an asynchronous and synchronous program that also incorporates 1:1 instructional zoom meetings and tutoring opportunities for students. All courses in Edmentum are taught by Arkansas certified teachers whom have completed the Science of Reading training and guidelines. Reading instruction is crucial in the overall success of students. The Edmentum programs uses rigorous language instruction that is aligned with the Science of Reading.

Every course in the Edmentum catalog includes reading, writing, speaking & listening, and language components, and encourages students to communicate using academic vocabulary. While these may look different from course to course, students have opportunities in every lesson to practice and enhance their language skills.

Early literacy instruction in Edmentums' language arts courses engages students in frequent phonemic awareness instruction and activities. Teachers work with Learning Coaches (parent/caretaker) as a team to support each student's education. Teachers also use real-time data from curricular tools to plan opportunities that may include reading to students, providing modeling and direct instruction, and helping students participate in interactive activities. Kindergartners engage daily in phonemic awareness activities. This instruction is reinforced by Learning Coaches, who are provided with detailed instructions for guiding students in skills such as:

Segmenting words into syllables

Isolating individual sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words

Blending individual sounds to make words

Obtaining and applying letter-sound relationships to words and word parts.

Phonemic awareness instruction builds in Grade 1 with continued practice of the aforementioned skills, as well as new focus on rhyme identification, syllabication, sound substitution, and long and short vowel sounds, among other skills. In Grade 1, avatars and multimedia presentations model how to pronounce and manipulate sounds and lead students through guided practice with Elkonin, or sound, boxes.

Guided practice continues into Grade 2. At this level, most students no longer need explicit instruction in phonemic awareness. At this level, teachers provide individualized phonemic awareness intervention and support on an as-needs basis. Phonics Instruction Phonics instruction differs from phonemic awareness in its focus on the systematic and predictable relationship between sounds and their letters in written language – the alphabetic principle. Knowing these relationships will help students recognize familiar words accurately and automatically, and 'decode' new words. Students learn how to operationalize the alphabetic principle when letters, sounds, and connected texts are used in conjunction, with clear relationships among them. As research has shown, programs of phonics instruction are most effective when they are systematic, explicit, and begin in Kindergarten. The Edmentum program begins phonics instruction in Kindergarten with a carefully selected set of letter-sound relationships that are organized into a logical sequence. Through course



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relationships that are organized into a logical sequence. Through course material and teacher support, students are explicitly taught these relationships. Student learning is further supported by Learning Coaches who receive detailed and user-friendly directions to support explicit teaching and reinforcement. Guided by the curriculum, young students work with their teacher and their Learning Coach, to use aids such as letter tiles and engage in other hands-on activities to make connections between letters and their sound. During Live Lesson sessions, teachers reinforce and assess student mastery of phonics skills. Explicit phonics instruction continues through Grade 3.

Each Language Arts course involves reading comprehension using texts of multiple genres that focus on a variety of topics and themes. Students analyze and respond to texts independently and use discussion boards. They have opportunities to write in different formats including short answers for text-dependent questions, research papers, and persuasive essays.

In math courses, students are given portfolio assignments to demonstrate understanding, and often use writing skills to explain their answers during instruction.

Science courses in Edmentum contain a vast amount of informative texts to deepen student understanding of concepts. Students also are required to complete portfolios and write up lab reports.

The Edmentum Social Studies curriculum involves reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources. Students will use these sources to support their responses to short answer questions and essays. Students are also assigned portfolios and projects such as writing a letter to a historical figure.

Additional Language Resources

students can also engage in synchronous instruction to enhance oral language skills. This involves teacher facilitated lessons, group projects, and class discussions. Interactivity is the key to synchronous instruction, allowing students to:

- *demonstrate their knowledge and practice their communication skills.
- *ask questions to deepen their understanding.
- *build relationships with their teacher and fellow classmates.
- *teachers to engage students in discussions, problem solving, and group projects.
- *focus class time on bridging skills gaps.
- *build one-on-one relationships with students.

This allows for students and instructors to develop relationships, address individual learning needs, and allow for flexibility with learning. The zoom sessions will be highly encouraged by EdOptions Academy, as well as the Nashville School District. Students are also able to communicate with teachers 24/7 via the Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) messaging system for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) messaging system for grades 6-12. With assistance from the teachers, students are expected to read and interact with messages in their courses on a daily basis during the school week. All Nashville School District



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courses on a daily basis during the school week. All Nashville School District students participating in EdOptions Academy will be expected to participate daily in their courses on scheduled school days and to maintain passing grades at all times. Our school education team consisting of administrators, school counselors, Building on-line facilitators, and a curriculum coordinator have access to monitor student log-in times, student work submissions, and student grades, which will be done on a daily basis by our school staff. In using EdOptions Academy for the 20-21 school year, we found the ability to monitor our students highly valuable.

CTE Courses- Courseware, Edmentum's standards-aligned digital curricula and virtual learning platform, is designed to be flexible, dynamic, and personalized to meet the unique needs of each learner. It is built on a foundation of research-based design principles and implementation, including mastery learning, active and engaged learning, deliberate practice, explicit instruction, scaffolding, and metacognitive strategies. Experienced virtual teachers support students through regular contact, comprehensive assignment feedback, and synchronous support via office hours and unit reviews. Lessons are recorded by Edmentum EdOptions Academy teachers to support learning and provide flexibility. Recorded lessons can be used to introduce skills before learners engage in independent practice and submit assignments for review and acceleration.

Edmentum EdOptions Academy teachers will consistently connect with students and Family

Learning Guides throughout the academic year to:

- Encourage engagement in the learning journey
- Develop a partnership, create comfort, and build rapport
- Share data and progress monitoring
- Highlight opportunities for growth and celebrate glows
- Provide a great experience

Calvert Learning

(K-5th Grades) Calvert curriculum and content will be guided and graded by Edmentum EdOptions Academy certified teachers. Calvert curriculum features comprehensive digital curricula in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Courseware

(6th-12th Grades) Courseware, Edmentum's standards-aligned digital curricula and virtual learning platform, is designed to be flexible, dynamic, and personalized to meet the unique needs of each learner. It is built on a foundation of research-based design principles and implementation, including mastery learning, active and engaged learning, deliberate practice, explicit instruction, scaffolding, and metacognitive strategies. Experienced virtual teachers support students through regular contact, comprehensive assignment feedback, and synchronous support via office hours and unit reviews.



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Exact Path

(K-5th Grades) Exact Path will serve as an independent program that students will access approximately four (4) days per week for 20 – 60 minutes per session. Exact Path utilizes adaptive diagnostic assessments paired with individualized learning paths to promote academic growth. Exact Path is a compliment to the Calvert curriculum by focusing on understanding where students are academically and providing just-in-time independent instruction. Edmentum EdOptions Academy teachers will monitor progress and adjust instruction as appropriate.



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 Nashville School District will utilize online virtual remote learning for grades K-12 through EdOptions Academy and their Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) for grades 6-12. EdOptions Academy utilizes an asynchronous approach to online learning that incorporates zoom sessions with students. All Nashville School District virtual students will be issued school chromebooks that they can use for their virtual learning. Students will engage in their digital coursework through the Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) for grades 6-12. Students will have opportunities to engage with their teachers through live scheduled zoom meetings as well for assistance as needed. All learning will take place online, virtually with Arkansas-licensed teachers from EdOptions Academy as the instructors for all virtual classes and zoom sessions

Will teachers be dedicated to primarily remote instruction or serving in a dual role, teaching both remote and in-person learners? Â *If teachers will serve in a dual role, describe whether it will be simultaneously, meaning remote and in-person at the same time with course/schedule specific considerations.

The Nashville School District will be using EdOptions Academy for its delivery of instruction for our 100% virtual students in grades K-12. EdOptions Academy provides a fully Arkansas-licensed teacher. Thus, our local Nashville School District teachers will not have any responsibilities with our fully virtual students. This is one of the reasons we chose EdOptions for the 20-21 school year, so that we did not put a much greater burden on our teachers. Moving forward, we want our local teachers to concentrate on teaching their on-site classroom students rather than teach both virtual and on-site students simultaneously

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



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The Nashville School District and EdOptions Academy expects teachers to be fully accessible for students and families. The teachers are able to be reached through email and correspond with students on a weekly basis through the Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) for grades 6-12 email and scheduled zoom meetings. EdOptions Academy 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. EdOptions Academy teachers are also required to respond to parent/guardian/student communication within 24 hours. EdOptions Academy provides all virtual teachers with PD and/or support for engaging students and relevant virtual instruction.

Live Lessons, Live Help, Office Hours, and Synchronous Overview Sessions:

- (K-5th) Highly qualified and certified EdOptions Academy teachers offer 30 – 60 minute live lessons and live help aligned to the coursework. Although live lessons and live help are optional students and Family Learning Guides are encouraged to attend. Live lessons and live help are available at various times throughout the day to provide flexibility, allow for smaller group sizes, encourage collaboration, build community, allow for time to ask questions, and offer support. Students and Family Learning Guides will have several opportunities to connect with teachers and enhance the learning experience. EdOptions Academy teachers will provide direct instruction around the concepts aligned to the curriculum. We follow the sound pedagogy of introduction, practice, and assessment during each live lesson. EdOptions Academy teachers reinforce and enrich learning using engaging virtual instructional practices.
- (6th-12th) Experienced virtual teachers offer 60 minute synchronous overview sessions to introduce the Unit, provide an overview of the assignments, discuss major concepts and misconceptions, and provide links to important resources. Students can get questions answered and get help planning their weekly schedule to complete the Unit on pace. Synchronous overview sessions will help students organize their learning path, regardless of where they are in the Unit. Office hours are also available throughout the week to offer individual and small group support. Sessions will consist of approximately 30 minutes of planned content and 30 minutes of Q & A related to the Unit.



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?

Students in full virtual learning will be supported by the EdOptions Academy teachers and our local educational team consisting of administrators, counselors, building level on-line facilitators and a curriculum coordinator. Students will be supported through 1:1 assistance by their EdOptions Academy teacher via emails and zoom sessions, as well as oversight from our local educational team. As a district, we will be monitoring the individual success of all our students in the full virtual program and make any necessary adjustments needed for each individual student to be successful. Nashville School District teachers will not be teaching our 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?

Students in full virtual learning will be supported by the EdOptions Academy teachers and our local educational team of administrators, counselors, building level on-line facilitators and curriculum coordinator. Students will be supported through 1:1 assistance by their EdOptions Academy teacher via emails and zoom sessions, as well as oversight from our local educational team. As a district, we will be monitoring the individual success of all our students in the full virtual program and make any necessary adjustments needed for each individual student to be successful.

Technology / Platforms

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

The Edmentum EdOptions Academy uses the Calvert Teaching Navigator (LMS) for grades K-5 and Canvas (LMS) for grades 6-12



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 EdOptions Academy content and courses are aligned to the Arkansas State Standards, Common Core, and the Next Generation Science Standards. The digital content consists of instructional videos, rigorous assignments, project-based assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. Content and 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 through the EdOptions Academy LMS platforms and their own teacher resources. The EdOptions teachers will also utilize the EdOptions Academy as a resource.

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.

For EdOptions Academy, teachers and students will be utilizing zoom video software for all teacher/student video learning opportunities. The zoom software is downloaded to the district provided chromebook for every fully remote student. The district provided chromebooks will also have the camera and audio equipment needed by the students for all zoom sessions. All zoom meetings are communicated between the teachers and students through their LMS platforms. EdOptions Academy will provide the zoom devices and software for their teachers.

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.

Every virtual student will be provided with a district-issued chromebook. Students who do not have reliable internet service may apply for a district-issued hotspot. Wi-Fi will be available on each campus of the district in all locations, as well as in some other community locations through a partnership with our district and the community.

Student Supports



Describe the manner and frequency the district or school will use to monitor the wellness and safety (food security, physical, mental health, etc.) of students in a total remote setting. (This may be in-person, video communication, etc.). Identify supports available to assist students within the district.

Our educational team consisting of administrators, school counselors, building level on-line facilitators and a curriculum coordinator will be monitoring the success and well-being of our students weekly. A member of our educational team will be responsible for periodic check-ins with all virtual students through zoom, email, and/or phone calls to address issues such as mental health and food security needs. Virtual students will have an online order form available to order food and a daily schedule will be given for pick up times. 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, EdOptions Academy teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. EdOptions Academy 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, EdOptions Academy will contact the school through a school counselor to step in and provide intervention. These teachers are also trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services.

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.

Our educational team at Nashville has full access to the EdOptions Academy Genius (SIS) to monitor the academic progress of all virtual students. All issues that arise from weekly monitoring will be addressed by our educational team directly with the student and also include their EdOptions Academy teacher in the process. In the event that our attempt at improving student engagement by communicating with the student and teacher is unsuccessful, we will next involve parents/guardians in the communication. During these conversations, we will offer additional support for the student including additional zoom meetings with their teacher for tutoring or possible RTI through our RTI interventionist with the goal of increasing student engagement and success. If all supports seemed to be ineffective, our administrative team would as a final step discuss a return to on-site instruction for a student that was still struggling with engagement after exhausting all other supports. This method of monitoring was highly effective for both accountability and academic achievement during the 2020-21 school year



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

EdOptions Academy teachers 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, our local educational team through the weekly monitoring process will collaborate with our district RTI Specialist to offer additional Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports for students as needed. EdOptions Academy has been very successful at identifying issues with students and communicating with local educational teams to better address the student's issues and provide additional RTI support.

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

EdOptions Academy courses have periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests to determine students' mastery of learning throughout the modules of the courses that are aligned to the summative module assessments. There are varied methods of assessment utilized with open ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple choice, hybrid assessments (open ended and multiple choice), and project-based assessments. EdOptions Academy Teachers also use live zoom sessions to do informal checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks. Additionally, our district utilizes I-Station for formative assessment for all students and we are able to ISIP test our students virtually as well. Thus, we will continue to ISIP test our fully virtual students to assist with monitoring their academic progress and offer support as needed



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

The Nashville School District will ensure that all dyslexia law requirements are met for digital learners by providing dyslexia screening and intervention as needed for all students, no matter if they are on-site or fully virtual. 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 EdOptions Academy teacher. Our local school counselors and administrators are responsible for submitting all individualized 504 plans for students to EdOptions Academy for their 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.



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

All GT program approval standards will be met when designing programming for identified gifted students with all GT policies of the Nashville School District followed for virtual students. All 2nd grade virtual students will complete the district's universal screener remotely on the same timeline as on-site students. Additional screening and evaluation will take place remotely when possible or will be scheduled individually through the District GT Coordinator. For grades 3-6, all EdOptions Academy courses provide for differentiation for GT students. Also for grades 3-6, fully virtual GT students will have the option to participate in on-site GT classes with the District GT Coordinator or participate in virtual GT classes with our District GT Coordinator through Google Classroom. For grades 7-8, all courses will be taught by Arkansas-licensed EdOptions Academy teachers that have been trained in classroom differentiation and will differentiate content for GT students in their classes. Also for grades 7-8, the district GT Coordinator will also have a google classroom page with resources and learning opportunities available to GT students. For grades 9-12, EdOptions Academy offers Honors and AP courses that will be available for all GT student

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

Nashville School District will work with ESOL/ESL students to ensure that all LPAC requirements are met for virtual learners. EdOptions Academy provides accessibility tools to support virtual ESOL/ESL students and will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual LEP uploaded into the EdOptions Academy Genius (SIS) by our local school counselors, ESL Coordinator. The Nashville School District ESL/ESOL staff will also support qualifying virtual students in accordance with their LPAC through zoom sessions designed to improve language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Additionally, support would be provided for their parents through communication in their home language that will allow them to be fully engaged in their child's educational process. Program evaluations will be scheduled on-site with the ESL Coordinator, and Students will be scheduled on-site for ELPA 21 testing.



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

All Nashville School District special education students in the fully virtual program will receive individualized classroom modifications that meet all requirements of IEP through the EdOptions teacher. The Nashville School District counselors and special education staff will upload the IEPs with modifications for each special education student into their Genius (SIS). EdOptions Academy courses are designed in such a way that all applicable accommodations/modifications can be met in the course in conjunction with services provided by our school district. The Nashville School District's special education staff will provide additional support for special education students as determined by the student's IEP committee. The committee will determine the best method of delivery of services in addition to modifications in place through the EdOptions Academy teacher and could include additional zoom sessions, google classroom interventions, and/or home visits. Students and parents will be scheduled on-site for special education evaluations whenever possible, but could conduct these evaluations virtually if appropriate. Special education conferences will be conducted virtually, however parents and students would be allowed to meet in-person on campus if the family desired to do so.

Describe 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 utilized by the Nashville School District include but are not limited to: digital copies of notes, text to speech embedded in the learning platform, internet browser text reader, extended time on assignments, flexible assignments, and adaptive intervention resources. For fully virtual students that need additional accommodations, these will be some of the modifications that are included for students on IEPs, 504 plans, or LEPs to assist with their learning being fully digital. Additionally, a struggling virtual student identified through RTI could be given any of these accommodations at any time as interventions to help those students.

Teacher Supports



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

The Nashville School District will be utilizing EdOptions Academy for all digital content and digital instruction for fully virtual students in grades K-12. EdOptions Academy provides Arkansas-licensed teachers that receive all required PD along with digital delivery PD that will greatly benefit our students. EdOptions Academy provides a team of instructional and digital content experts for support for all their teachers along with our students in the program. EdOptions Academy also has a team of technology support specialists to assist with any technology issues for teachers or students. Despite our district using EdOptions Academy teachers, we are still providing all of the teachers in our district with enhanced training pertaining to Google Classroom, digital content delivery, and better techniques for providing instruction for students learning remotely. Additionally, training will support the use of the learning management system, effective virtual instruction methods, and strategies for maintaining effective student engagement in the virtual classroom. We are continuing these PD offerings to be fully prepared for any circumstance that would require our district teachers to provide instruction for remote learners.

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 Nashville School District will be utilizing EdOptions Academy teachers that are fully Arkansas-licensed. Our local Nashville School District teachers will not be used for fully virtual student instruction, thus no extra time will need to be allotted for teachers to support or plan for fully virtual students and/or digital content.

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

4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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

All students are expected to test (statewide summative assessments) onsite as per DESE guidance. Provide an overview of how the district may communicate to parents and test digital learning students at a district site.

The Nashville School District understands that all students are expected to take statewide summative assessments on-site per DESE guidance. Our school district also desires for all of our students to be tested in this manner and will do everything we can to ensure all of our fully virtual students come to campus and test.

In the event a parent refuses to bring their student on campus to test we will follow the off-sight testing guidelines provided by DESE to make sure testing is available. The Nashville School District will utilize all of the following methods to notify parents and students of on-site testing dates and requirements: social media, school text messaging system, school building calendars, student handbooks with testing dates, phone calls, mailed newsletters, and the school website. Testing will be set up for digital learning students with flexibility in mind to ensure that all fully virtual students will have the opportunity to test in a safe manner.

Provide a detailed explanation of how the district will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option(s) and the fidelity of implementation as described within this application.



LEA INSIGHTS

The Nashville School District will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by closely monitoring the program itself, students in the program, conducting surveys of parents and students, and using our local educational team of administrators, counselors, specialized content area teachers or directors, RTI Interventionist, and curriculum coordinator to continually evaluate the successfulness of our digital program for students as a whole. The district utilizes the I-station assessment piece to monitor students once a month. This program allows for assessments to be given online in their home environment for virtual students. To assist our local educational team with this evaluation, our team will analyze student and parent surveys, virtual student attendance data, ACT Aspire student data, ACT student data, I-Station, local formative and summative assessment data, and EdOptions Academy student grades in order to evaluate the effectiveness and fidelity of the program. The data used in these educational team meetings will help us target areas of needed improvement and to address any issues that need to be changed in order to increase student achievement in the fully virtual program. For individual students and their individual success, our educational team at Nashville has full access to the EdOptions Academy Genius (SIS) to monitor all academic progress of all virtual students and will be weekly monitoring all virtual students and their academic progress. All issues that arise from weekly monitoring will be addressed by our educational team directly with the student and also include their EdOptions Academy teacher in the process. In the event that our attempt at improving student engagement by communicating with the student and teacher is unsuccessful, we will next involve parents/guardians in the communication. During these conversations, we will offer additional supports for the student including additional zoom meetings with their teacher for tutoring or possible RTI through our RTI interventionist with the goal of increasing student engagement and success. Additionally, parents will have full access to virtual student grades through the EdOptions Academy SIS, giving them the ability to monitor the progress of their child as well.



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 Nashville School District has and will continue to support parents and students with digital tools and resources including: technical support for hardware and software issues, EdOptions Academy parent resources, access to district Wi-Fi available on campus and at community partnership locations, consistent communication from the school district to the parent, and access to all school support systems, such as mental health counseling or school nurse services. EdOptions Academy itself engages families into the digital learning process by granting access to the parent portal of their LMS to monitor their student’s progress along with many other useful and helpful tools for student success in their digital program. An example of the valuable and extremely helpful information available to parents through EdOptions Academy, can be found at the following link to their Parent Success Zone through their website. <https://www.edoptionsacademy.com/parent-success-zone>
EdOptions Academy Parent Success Zone (linked here)

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

https://www.nashvillesd.com/388184_4

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

https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/499/digital_learning_plan_waivers_st

Policies

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

https://www.nashvillesd.com/64086_2

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

https://www.nashvillesd.com/64086_2

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

https://www.nashvillesd.com/64086_2

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