



# Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Request

Status: **Submitted to ADE DESE**

Charleston School District (2402000)

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 #:** 2402000  
**Superintendent:** Melissa Moore  
**Email:** mmoore@tigersmail.org  
**Phone:** (479) 965-7160  
**Duration Requested (not to exceed five years):** 3 Years  
 (School year 2021-2022 to 2024-2025)

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

| LEA(s)  | Grades/Courses | Interaction                            | Delivery                             | Platforms  |
|---|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>2402006 - Charleston Elementary School</b> | K-6            | <b>Asynchronous</b> <b>Synchronous</b> | Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance) | <b>LMS</b> |
| <b>2402007 - Charleston High School</b>       | Grades 7 - 12  | <b>Asynchronous</b> <b>Synchronous</b> | Virtual (Online) / Remote (Distance) | <b>LMS</b> |



## 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)    |   |



| 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>Charleston School District will utilize online virtual (remote) learning through the ESC K-6 Virtual option and the Virtual Arkansas option for grades 7-12. The programs will provide instruction using a dual model of both synchronous and asynchronous online learning. Students will engage in digital learning through the Red Comet/BUZZ Learning Management System for grades K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for grades 7-12. All students will have the opportunity to participate in live zoom sessions for synchronous learning with the teacher. All learning and instruction will be virtual. Because of the asynchronous learning, the Charleston School District requests the attendance waiver. Attendance will be measured by engagement by both ESC and Virtual Arkansas. Students who are not consistently engaged will be removed from the virtual option.</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><b>Class Size</b><br/>Number of students:</p>  | 1-A.5                      | <p>DESE<br/>Rules<br/>Governing<br/>Class Size<br/>and<br/>Teaching<br/>Load</p> | <p>6-17-<br/>812(a)(2)</p> | <p>We are not requesting additional waivers for class size. 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. We will not exceed the allowable number of students per class in grades K-4 and 5-6.</p>    |
| <p><b>Teaching Load</b><br/>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                      | <p>DESE<br/>Rules<br/>Governing<br/>Class Size<br/>and<br/>Teaching<br/>Load</p> | 6-17-812                   | <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. We will not exceed the allowable number of students per class in grades K-4 and 5-6.</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.  |
|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Six Hour Instructional Day</b> (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only) | 1-A.4.2                    |   | 6-16-102;<br>6-16-126 | Students will have some control over time, place, and pace in the ESC K-6 virtual option and the Virtual Arkansas option. The Charleston School District along with ESC K-6 and Virtual Arkansas to work with students and parents to ensure engagement in the digital learning process. The instructional day will be measured through engagement and mastery of content. |
| <b>Clock Hours</b>   | 1-A.2                      |   |                       | Students will have some control over time, place, and pace in the ESC K-6 virtual option and the Virtual Arkansas option. The Charleston School District along with ESC K-6 and Virtual Arkansas to work with students and parents to ensure engagement in the digital learning process. The instructional day will be measured through engagement and mastery of content. |
| <b>Recess</b> (Waiver applies to virtual/remote students only)                     | 1-A.4.3                    | DESE<br>Rules<br>Governing<br>Nutrition<br>and<br>Physical<br>Activity<br>Standards<br>and Body<br>Mass | 6-6-<br>102(a)(5)     |  |



| Waiver Topic | Standard for Accreditation | Index, Section 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 a recess waiver. Physical activity 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.</p> <p>The Guy Fenter ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers will ask virtual students to keep an activity log that will be checked bi-weekly. Parents and/or students will also be asked to share a video of themselves completing an activity/lesson, or complete an assignment that is directly related to the physical education content. Each students' activity log will be checked bi-weekly to ensure that 40 minutes of instructional time for physical activity is being completed and documented appropriately.</p> |

**Digital Model**

Please complete the following application with responses describing the school and district digital programming.

**Interaction / Delivery**



What are the ways teachers and students will interact with digital content (Synchronous or Asynchronous)? Please describe instructional expectations and participation for students.



The Education Service Cooperative (ESC) K-6 Virtual option is a dual learning virtual experience with both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. This model allows for flexibility with learning, student-teacher relationships, and targeted learning for all students. Students will have the opportunity to attend three Zoom sessions per week for each core content course and one Zoom per week for enhancement courses (i.e. Music, art, PE). All K-6 students will be required to attend a minimum of one Zoom session per week. It is highly encouraged that students attend all Zoom sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend Zoom sessions are more successful than students who do not attend Zoom sessions. Teachers and students will be able to communicate twenty-four hours a day using the Red Comet - Buzz LMS or through the ESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessional are expected to communicate with parents and students in the ESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday-Friday.

All of the components of the Science of Reading will be delivered through an approved program for grades K-6. The phonological awareness will be done by using Heggerty. The phonics component will be done with Foundations; they have online components to use through the FunHub. Foundations also has fluency passages that will check that will be used. The vocabulary and comprehension will be achieved through word choice and questions for science and social studies lessons. The GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers will be trained in Foundations and Heggerty and will have support from the GFESC Literacy Specialists. The GFESC Literacy Specialists will also work with the virtual teachers to ensure that they meet the needs of the students by using assessments and the data to drive their instruction. Assessments will be used to progress monitor and make certain that students are learning. Foundations has assessments that will be used to monitor proficiency, as well. If students don't get 80% on an assessment, the data can be used to plan reteaching before assessing prior to moving to the next unit. The GFESC Literacy Specialists will meet with school to teach/coach them on how to assess, how to use the data to ensure proficiency, what to do when students aren't proficient, and what intervention to use to meet the deficiencies. Additional Zoom sessions may be required to ensure that the Science of Reading requirements are met. All K-6 Virtual students will have access to the home school's library on campus, as well as a manipulatives/resource bag that will be sent home with all 100% virtual students upon registration. Manipulatives/Resources will include but are not limited to the following: individual sound wall, elkonin boxes, letter tiles, letter boards, decodable text, dry erase boards, etc.

Virtual Arkansas is a "high touch" virtual learning experience that harnesses the benefit of synchronous or "live" instruction married with aligned asynchronous courses. This allows for students and instructors to develop relationships, address needed "just-in-time" instruction, and flexibility with learning. At the High School level, students are provided the opportunity to attend two Zoom sessions per week, per content area, and request additional one Zoom sessions as needed. All Charleston School District 7-12 virtual students will be required to attend a minimum of one Zoom session per week Local school districts should add here their requirements for students to attend Zoom sessions





# LEA INSIGHTS

should add here their requirements for students to attend Zoom sessions. 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.

The Charleston School District will utilize virtual (remote) learning through the ESC K-6 Virtual option. The program will provide instruction using a dual model of both synchronous and asynchronous online learning. Students will engage in digital coursework through the Red Comet - Buzz LMS. All students will have the opportunity to participate in live Zoom sessions for synchronous learning with the teachers. All learning and instruction will be virtual.

The Charleston 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. Students that will be enrolling in CTE courses through Virtual Arkansas will be considered a blended learning environment with the facilitator giving students opportunities to return to campus for hands on learning.

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 Charleston School District will use the (ESC) K-6 Virtual option for delivery of instruction for students that are 100% virtual. The Charleston School District will provide an Arkansas certified teacher of record and a District Point of Connection. The ESC K-6 Virtual option will provide training and support for the District Point of Connection. The Charleston School District's Point of Connection will be the Director of Curriculum, Susan Brown. The ESC K-6 Virtual option will provide training and support for the District Point of Connection. The ESC K-6 Virtual option will have Arkansas certified teachers as the instructors for all course content from the Red Comet - Buzz LMS . The ESC K-6 Virtual option is a model with synchronous and targeted instruction partnered with asynchronous course content and enrichment. All ESC K-6 Virtual teachers and paraprofessionals will be required to participate in professional development and digital training with support from the ESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator.

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



ESC K-6 Virtual option students will be required to attend a minimum of one Zoom session per week. It is highly encouraged that students attend all Zoom sessions each week. Research shows that students who attend Zoom sessions are more successful than students who do not attend Zoom sessions. Teachers and students will be able to communicate twenty-four hours a day using the Red Comet - Buzz LMS or through the ESC email system. Virtual teachers and/or paraprofessionals are expected to communicate with parents and students in the ESC K-6 Virtual program on a daily basis Monday - Friday. ESC K-6 Virtual teachers are expected to monitor students and provide a weekly status report to students and parent/guardians, and initiate further contact with students that are demonstrating difficulties with course content. ESC K-6 Virtual teachers are required to respond to parent/guardian/student communication within a twenty-four hour time period. All teachers are continuously provided PD and/or support for engaging and relevant synchronous instruction. Charleston School District teachers will not have any responsibilities with our fully virtual students. The District Point of Connection, Building Administrator, Counselor, Special Education, ESOL, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, etc. could possibly have contact with the 100% virtual students for interventions, enrichment lessons, etc.

Charleston School District teachers will act as facilitators for all Virtual Arkansas courses that CHS students choose to take. 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 highly encouraged but not required to attend all Zoom sessions. Teachers are continuously provided PD and support for providing engaging and relevant synchronous instruction, details on the supports in place, which includes facilitators who work with Virtual Arkansas teachers to keep students on task, and/or local tutors or teachers available to provide one-on-one support in addition to what Virtual Arkansas provides. The POC will



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

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

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?

School districts that are using the ESC K-6 Virtual option as a digital learning solution for students that are 100% virtual will make it possible for teachers on-site in the district to focus solely on face to face students, and virtual teachers to focus solely on virtual/digital students. Each teacher in grades K-3 will be assigned a paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. Each teacher in the 4-6 grades will have a half-time paraprofessional to help provide support to both the teacher and the students. The teachers will utilize the paraprofessionals for communication with students and/or parent/guardians, instructional support, differentiation, etc. The ESC K-6 Virtual Coordinator will communicate regularly with the District Point of Connection, as well as perform multiple observations/evaluations to monitor the teacher and/or students. Information gathered through observations will be shared with each respective school district and adjustments made as needed.

## Technology / Platforms

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

The Red Comet - Buzz LMS will be utilized for the ESC K-6 Virtual option.

The Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will be utilized through Virtual Arkansas.



Describe the digital content that will be available to students, including any digital curriculum and supports that are available to teachers. If the district is using a content management system (CMS), please specify grades levels and subjects that the CMS will address.

The Red Comet Courseware curriculum is aligned to the Arkansas State Standards, Common Core, and the Next Generation Science Standards. Courses consist of direct-instruction videos, rigorous assignments, performance tasks, and assessments to engage all students. The Red Comet - Buzz LMS allows teachers to customize all courses to match district and/or state frameworks, scope and sequence, and pacing guides. The ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and paraprofessionals can monitor student progress using the Gradebook and Reporting features built into the LMS. Each teacher will have an Educator Dashboard that allows for full program management by student, subject, teacher, grade level, assignment, district, etc. School district administrators, District Point of Connection, and the ESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator have full access to the Reporting feature of the LMS as well.

Virtual Arkansas courses are designed and written by subject matter experts (SME's) 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.



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

The ESC K-6 Virtual option teachers and students will be utilizing Zoom video software for all synchronous learning opportunities. The Zoom software/app is downloaded to the district provided device and checked out to each 100% virtual student. The ESC K-6 Virtual option teacher will provide synchronous instruction sessions with students via Zoom during scheduled times throughout each week. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule for each course will be posted in a common location within each course for easy use by both students and parents/guardians.

Students will be utilizing Zoom video conferencing software to participate in synchronous learning sessions with their teacher. The Zoom software is downloaded to the district provided device. The Virtual Arkansas teacher will utilize Zoom to facilitate synchronous sessions with students during scheduled Zoom sessions during the week. The Zoom link and Zoom schedule is placed in a common location within each course.

Describe the technology access (device and connectivity) that will be provided to each digital learning student to ensure each student receives a free public education.

Each 100% virtual student will be assigned a district device. Students who do not have reliable internet service may apply for a district-issued hotspot. Wi-Fi will be available on each campus in posted areas.

## Student Supports

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



The GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers are trained to employ actions and behaviors to ensure the physical and mental health of students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option uses a variety of methods of communication to do this and partners with schools to ensure students are cared for. The GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers and paraprofessionals will make daily contact with all virtual students, both synchronous and asynchronous. When a situation arises where intervention is determined to be needed beyond what can be done virtually, the GFESC K-6 Virtual option will contact the partnering school including the facilitator and counselor to step in to provide intervention. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers are trained to report any suspected maltreatment/abuse to the Department of Health Services. Additionally, the GFESC K-6 Virtual option provides ongoing professional development to their teachers to support SEL strategies. Virtual students will have access to the school meal program through available daily pickups of meals at the buildings.

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.

The Charleston School District has access to the Red Comet - Buzz LMS to monitor students in real time. Virtual option teachers will initiate intervention when a teacher determines a student isn't actively engaging or successfully mastering the content. In cases where needed, Virtual option teachers will involve the partnering school through the Point of Connection, first. ESC Virtual option coordinator will contact administrators if the initial intervention is not successful.

The Charleston School District has access to the Virtual Arkansas 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 administrators if the initial intervention is not successful.

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





# LEA INSIGHTS

Instruction decisions will be made using multiple data points, including assessment results- formative and summative ,classwork, as well as student engagement data. Student engagement data includes attendance, discipline, and mobility in the current school year and in previous school years. If a student is not making the required daily academic progress or is not engaging consistently, the GFESC K-6 Virtual teacher will intervene. The interventions may include, but are not limited to:

Teacher activity:

- A phone call to student and parents
- Create and implement Student Individualized Intervention Plan

- Academic coaching

Student activity:

- Specific completion of specific daily and/or weekly goals determined by the teacher and accomplished by the student.
- Mandatory in-person or virtual meetings with the teacher, student and/or parent to monitor progress.
- Increased time spent on coursework
- Remediation with a teacher to ensure success on assignments

Interventions may include but are not limited to weekly check in meetings with the GFESC K-6 Virtual teacher, parent and student meetings with campus administration, or a transition to face to face instruction. Interventions will be scheduled on an “as needed” basis for each student. All services provided by support programs, including Special Education, English Language Learner, or 504 plans, will be provided remotely as available. Students may be required to meet onsite for specific services and assessments.

Additionally, Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained to identify and intervene with immediacy when a student is determined to not be successful. They are trained to deliver Tier 1 and 2 interventions and, if those are not successful, reach out to the partnering school regarding additional Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. Virtual Arkansas also has a PLC structure designed to address intervention with targeted intervention meetings that occur in the 4th and 7th weeks of the 9 weeks.



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

Instruction decisions will be made using multiple data points, including assessment results- formative and summative, classwork, as well as student engagement data. Student engagement data includes attendance, discipline, and mobility in the current school year and in previous school years. Virtual teachers will complete bi-weekly progress monitoring of students. Students and parents will be provided support through program orientation in setting and reaching course progress goals. During weekly virtual student check-ins teachers will discuss progress with students.

ESC K-6 Virtual Option has periodic formative assessments, checks for understanding, and pre-tests to determine students' mastery of learning throughout the modules of a course that are aligned to the summative module assessments. There are varied methods of assessment utilized both through the asynchronous course with open ended discussions/assessments, choice response activities, multiple choice, and hybrid assessments(open ended and multiple choice). Teachers also use weekly live Zoom to do informal formative checks to ensure clarity for students on asynchronous learning tasks.

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.

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



# LEA INSIGHTS

ESC K-6 Virtual Option provides accessibility tools to support students with dyslexia. Dyslexia screening is provided virtually by the dyslexia interventionist at the student's home school or by district staff. Digital learning students identified with characteristics that could be associated with dyslexia are grouped with other students from their home school who have similar assessment results. Digital students receive a daily ZOOM invitation to participate in their group's intervention session at the designated time.

The Charleston 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 receive services from a district dyslexia interventionist. 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. 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.



# LEA INSIGHTS

All GT program approval standards will be met when designing programming for identified gifted students with all GT policies of the Charleston 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 GFESC K-6 Virtual option 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. The GFESC K-6 Virtual option teachers have been trained in classroom differentiation and will differentiate content for GT students in their classes. In K-2, weekly lessons will be shared with GFESC K-6 virtual teachers to provide enrichment for all K-2 virtual students. The GFESC K-6 Virtual Option Coordinator is GT certified and will provide lessons for both GFESC K-6 Virtual teachers and students.

Referral/Placement conferences will be held virtually through a Google Form process developed by the GFESC K-6 Virtual option Coordinator in coordination with the point of connection at the Charleston School District and/or district GT coordinator.

All current Virtual Arkansas teachers have been trained with the GT Secondary Course Content training and have support for gifted learners provided within the course as well as a representation of those learning offerings for documentation for partnering schools. New hires will also be expected to attain this training if they do not already have it. Additionally, Virtual Arkansas provides student perception surveys sent out each semester asking for student feedback on their learning experience. A parent perceptions survey will be conducted as well. Teachers are also encouraged to do informal surveys with students regarding the course learning experience throughout the year.



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

The Charleston School District will work with ESOL/ESL students to ensure that all LPAC requirements are met for virtual learners. Licensed teachers and trained paraprofessionals—under the supervision of teachers—work with students to increase their language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Professional development is provided for teachers and paras to support the language development and academic needs of English language learners. In addition, support is provided for the parents to be fully engaged in their child's education by providing them with training, information, and translation services through Cafecitos and Family Literacy.

ESC K-6 Virtual option provides accessibility tools to support ESOL/ESL and will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual LEP uploaded into the SIS by partnering schools.

Virtual Arkansas provides accessibility tools to support ESOL/ESL and will provide the needed accommodations/modifications per the individual LEP uploaded into the SIS by partnering schools.

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 Charleston School District special education students in the fully virtual program will receive individualized classroom modifications that meet all requirements of IEP through the GFESC K-6 Virtual option teacher. The Charleston School District counselors and special education staff will upload the IEPs with modifications for each special education student into their Buzz (SIS). RedComet 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 Charleston 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 GFESC K-6 Virtual option 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.

Virtual Arkansas teachers will provide information for evaluations and conferences when requested. The Charleston 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.



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 embedded in the learning platform, internet browser text reader, extended time on assignments, flexible assignments, and adaptive intervention resources.

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.

## Teacher Supports

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

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

The Charleston High School 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.



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 Charleston Elementary School will utilize the ESC K-6 Virtual Option. The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will, at minimum, follow the guidelines and policies set by the state of Arkansas in regards to teacher planning time (40 minutes per day). ESC K-6 Virtual Option will provide instructional and digital content support for point-in-time support for all teachers.

The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will utilize curriculum developed by faculty members and subject matter experts within the Red Comet - Buzz LMS which are aligned to Arkansas state standards. The ESC will provide professional development to aid personnel as they provide instruction to the students.

The Charleston High School will be utilizing Virtual Arkansas for our digital content and digital instruction solution. Virtual Arkansas teachers will utilize curriculum developed by Arkansas subject matter experts (SME's) aligned to Arkansas standards. Schools will provide a facilitator or facilitators, depending upon the number of students, to aid Virtual Arkansas teachers as they provide instruction to the students. Virtual Arkansas will provide training to the partnering school's facilitator(s) and ongoing support to facilitator(s) through Virtual Arkansas' Facilitator Coordinator.

## District Supports

Describe how the district will ensure equitable access to opportunities for success for digital learner's needs (poverty, homelessness, migrant, foster care, and military connected students) A link (URL) to the district equity plan may be acceptable if it meets this criteria.

The local school/district will provide all appropriate testing and support services for qualifying students. The ESC Virtual Option teachers will provide the appropriate testing data, classroom instructional services (as outlined by the appropriate documentation, ie, the IEP), and accommodations as necessary.





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.

All ESC Virtual Option students will be required to do statewide summative and school/district required testing ( ACT Aspire, NWEA MAP, Istation, etc..) at the building/district site. These tests will be conducted and monitored by the school/district personnel. All testing data will be shared by the school/district for analysis by ESC Virtual Option personnel. Parents/Guardians will be notified through, mail or phone call, of when statewide summative required testing will be given onsite. Arrangements will be made for a safe testing area.

Virtual Arkansas requires trained proctors for major assessments. The Charleston School District's plan for students to take proctored assessments includes: any state required testing assessment.

All GFESC K-6 Virtual Option students will be required to do statewide summative and school/district required testing (Istation, ACT Aspire, etc..) at the building/district site. These tests will be conducted and monitored by the Charleston School District personnel. All testing data will be shared by the Charleston School District for analysis by GFESC K-6 Virtual Option personnel. The Charleston 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. The Charleston 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.

The Charleston School District will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the digital option and the fidelity of implementation by conducting surveys of parents and students. Charleston School District will analyze student data from ACT Aspire, GFESC K-6 Virtual Option grades, school/district specific assessments used for formative and summative purposes in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The District Point of Connection, Administrators, Counselors, etc. will use the data collected to 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, the Charleston School District Point of Connection has full access to the RedComent - Buzz (SIS) to monitor all academic progress of all virtual students and will be weekly monitoring all virtual students and their academic progress.

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.

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 Charleston School District will support parents and students with digital tools and resources including, point in time technical support for hardware and software issues, maintenance and support of the district LMS, access to district Wi-Fi available on all district campuses.

The ESC K-6 Virtual Option will engage families into the digital learning process by granting access to the parent portal of the LMS to monitor their student's progress. The ESC Virtual Option will conduct a parent orientation which will address key strategies for engagements and success in the virtual format. Families will be asked to complete surveys and participate in feedback forums for the program. The ESC Virtual Option faculty will also conduct parent/teacher conferences as required by state standards.

In addition, Virtual Arkansas provides parent/guardian informational webinars throughout the school year for families of students in Virtual Arkansas courses. Virtual Arkansas teachers communicate course and grade updates weekly to parents/guardians with provided email addresses. Parents/guardians are also given access to the Parent Canvas App which allows them to monitor their 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 (linked here).

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

<http://tigers.wsc.k12.ar.us/PDF%20Files/MinutesApril2021.pdf>

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

The Ready For Learning Committee approved the Digital Learning Plan and sent

## Policies

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

ESC K-6 Virtual students are expected to access, attend, and interact with the onl

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

ESC K-6 Virtual students are expected to follow the local district discipline policie



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

ESC K-6 Virtual students will be provided grades based on the individual school c

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