

Tate County School District will make available to all students in grades 9-12 access to free online courses through Mississippi Virtual Public School and will assist students by offering the opportunity during the school day to participate in the program as well as counseling and monitoring of the student as he/she progresses through the course(s).

The Mississippi Virtual Public School Program (MVPS) is a free web-based educational program offered by the Mississippi Department of Education to provide Mississippi students with access to a wider range of course work.

In order to be successful in an online class, the School Board recognizes that students need certain characteristics, including adequate keyboard skills, good written communication skills, experience using e-mail and a web browser, self-motivation, and the ability to stay on track and meet deadlines. Falling behind in an online course makes it extremely difficult to succeed.

Definitions

Distance Learning – A technological delivery model in which regularly scheduled real-time instruction occurs during the school day where students and instructors are not in the same place and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.

Online Learning – A delivery model that is an interactive computer-based and internet-connected learning environment in which students are separated from their teachers by time or location or both and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.

Blended Learning – A hybrid instructional delivery model where pupils are provided face-to-face instruction in part at a supervised school facility away from home and in part in a computer-based, internet-connected learning environment with some degree of pupil control over time, location, and pace of instruction and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.

Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS)

MVPS is an online course system that has been approved by MDE. All courses have been reviewed for alignment to the respective framework. The following guidelines apply:

1. A student's enrollment must have prior approval by the principal and the appropriate screening to be approved for the course;
2. Registration must be handled by the school counselor. The student nor his/her parent or guardian may register;

3. The student may earn a maximum of 3 Carnegie Units towards graduation unless the classes taken are Advanced Placement classes, in which case the student may earn an unlimited amount of Carnegie Units within the graduation requirement guidelines; additional courses may be approved by the principal and district office.
4. Students may enroll in only 1 MVPS class at a time; additional courses may be approved by the principal and district office.
5. Summer school session classes must be completed by August 1 and regular session classes must be completed by April 1;
6. The Tate County School District does not provide the certified teacher for the MVPS courses;
7. The Tate County School District will appoint a site coordinator;
8. MVPS courses are free to students on a first-come-first-served basis contingent upon availability of funds appropriated by the legislature, with seniors given priority;
9. Once all MVPS seats are taken, districts, schools, or parents may pay the cost for additional students to take MVPS courses; and
10. The student and parent are responsible for any needed transportation to complete the course work.

The appointed site coordinator will oversee the development of policies/guideline, registration, and implementation of the MVPS courses for the students. This individual will:

1. Monitor student coursework and communicate on a regular basis with MVPS staff to receive and provide timely feedback on student progress;
2. Act as MVPS's first point of contact for any communication about the student including online disciplinary issues or other inappropriate behavior;
3. Report any disciplinary issues to the principal immediately; and
4. Proctor midterm and final exams and receive progress reports and grades from the MVPS instructors.

Students may NOT:

1. Work in partnership with any other student on an assignment unless instructed to do so by the online course instructor;
2. Allow others to copy their work;
3. Misuse information from the internet or other source; or

4. Practice plagiarism in any form. If a student work is determined to be plagiarized, the student will be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to dismissal from the course with a failing grade.

Student Participation

All students taking an MVPS course must abide by the program's guidelines. Failure to do so could jeopardize participation in the program and may result in more serious disciplinary actions.

Students enrolled in MVPS will be required to follow the course outline, timeline for completion of assignments, and testing procedures established by the Mississippi Department of Education. If a student is not participating or completing assignments as expected, the Online Instructor will contact the parent/guardian and the School Site Coordinator. The School Site Coordinator must follow up with student and parent/guardian and inform the Online Instructor of the action(s) taken within 3 school days.

A student may withdraw from any MVPS courses provided the MVPS guidelines are followed. A student may withdraw from a course within ten (10) days after the course has begun without penalty. Any Tate County School District student who fails to drop a MVPS course during the required timeline will be given the grade that the MVPS Instructor records and that grade will become part of his/her academic record.

Legal Reference: Miss Code. § 37-161-3

Additional references may be found on the Mississippi Department of Education's website.