

Tate County Schools

2020-21 Virtual Learning Plan

During the 2020-2021 school year, Tate County School District is offering students the option of participating in a Virtual Learning Program.

Students requesting this option will still be enrolled at their regular school and assigned to Tate County Schools' instructional staff. However, they will complete weekly assignments at home. The Virtual Learning Program will mirror the content and the pace of the traditional school curriculum.

All approved virtual learning applications will be in effect for an entire nine week period. A student cannot switch to on-campus learning until the end of the nine weeks, at which time students will be given the opportunity to request a transfer from full-time virtual learning to the traditional classroom setting.

Virtual Learning Requirements for Students and Families:

- Virtual learning will not be delivered through paper packets. Online delivery and completion of assignments through Google Classroom, a web-based learning management system, will be the primary method of achieving grade level/subject area competency. Therefore, students must have access to adequate Internet services.
- Students enrolled in virtual learning must be committed to online learning. While virtual learning will include rigorous instruction based on standards, it cannot replace instruction in the traditional classroom.
- All educators, students, parents and guardians must develop a partnership to ensure appropriate academic growth occurs during virtual learning.
 - Teachers will be available to assist virtual learners on a weekly basis.
 - Virtual learners should have regular access to a capable adult willing to monitor and support the learning process.
 - Frequent ongoing communication between all parties is vital to student success.
- The virtual learning curriculum in grades 9-12 will be based on course availability and student enrollment. Therefore, some elective courses and opportunities may not be offered.
- All district grading policies and procedures utilized for traditional students in the classroom will also be applicable to virtual learners. This will include promotion/retention policies.
- Virtual learners must agree to maintain integrity and honesty concerning completion of assignments and assessments in the virtual environment.
- Individual Education Plans and Language Services Plans will be maintained to the maximum extent possible for students enrolled in virtual learning.
- Students to opt for virtual learning will still be expected to adhere to the board-approved district calendar.
- Tate County Schools will adhere to the Mississippi Department of Education guidelines regarding attendance for virtual learning. Learners must log in daily and complete all coursework weekly to be counted present.
- Virtual learners will be required to complete universal screeners and state assessments as required by the Mississippi Department of Education and/or state law. Benchmark assessments, Advanced Placement assessments, and other assessments may also be necessary. Virtual learners will be required to participate in some assessments in person on Fridays. Transportation will be the responsibility of the parent.

***This is a fluid document based on current information and is subject to change based on new guidance issued by education, government and/or health officials. Updated information will be posted on the Tate County Schools website.**

TCS D Virtual Learning Program FAQ

General Information:

How do I find information about Tate County School's Virtual Learning Program (Virtual Learning Program)?

Anyone can access the information about the Virtual Learning Program and this FAQ document on our website...

Parents and/or guardians must complete the Tate County School District registration process and email the counselor to request virtual learning. If registration is not completed, the student will not have access to Virtual Learning Program.

What will the typical virtual learning school day be like? How much time will a student be expected to spend on schoolwork?

Instruction will be overseen by a licensed teacher who will post weekly independent assignments in Google Classroom. Direct instruction may include pre-recorded instructional videos, narrated PowerPoints/Google slide presentations, guided practice, independent reading, as well as assigned tasks/activities. All assignments will have an assigned deadline for completion. Students must participate in 240 minutes of instruction/activities daily, as required by the Mississippi Department of Education. The direct instruction/communication with Tate County staff will only occur during traditional school hours on school days. Some High School Courses could be delivered through an outside online program (Edgenuity) and NWCC.

Why has the 240-minute requirement been put in place by the Mississippi Department of Education?

According to Mississippi law, compulsory age children (6-17) must attend school; districts are required to report daily attendance for truancy purposes.

What will the curriculum look like for my child?

Teachers will upload lessons into the Google Classroom platform. Lessons will include new instruction, review of previously taught standards and learning targets, independent practice, and some virtual small group and/or one on one instruction to meet the learning needs of students.

Will my child be assigned to a teacher?

Yes, all students will be assigned to a teacher.

Will my child receive feedback from a teacher during virtual learning?

Yes, all students will receive feedback and guidance through Google Classroom. Parents and/or students may reach out to teachers with questions and requests for help. Teachers may also use School Status to communicate with parents and guardians. Fridays will be for teacher office hours; students may make an appointment to have face-to-face teacher meetings.

What do I do if I have any questions or concerns during the nine weeks?

Please contact the school as you would if the student was in the traditional school setting.

Will students be given devices/technology?

When completing the Virtual Learning Program application, parents can indicate if a device is needed.

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TCS D Virtual Learning Program FAQ, continued

Can my child use a personal-owned device for virtual learning?

Yes, any internet compatible device can be used to access Google Classroom. While cell phones can also access Google Classroom through the Classroom app, they are not recommended due to small screen size.

Will my child receive Special Education services if enrolled in the virtual learning?

An IEP is written to provide students with special services that include personalized instruction and additional support in a traditional school setting. The IEP team will meet at the beginning of school to determine what special education and related services are appropriate for Virtual Learning Program.

Will my child receive 504 services if enrolled in the virtual learning?

A 504 plan is written to provide students with special services that include personalized instruction and additional support in a traditional school setting. The 504 team will meet at the beginning of school to determine what special education and related services are appropriate for Virtual Learning Program.

Will my child receive Gifted/TAGs services if enrolled in the virtual learning?

Yes. Assignments will be in google classroom.

Will my child receive English Learner services if enrolled in the virtual learning?

Yes. English Learner will still have access to services in their Language Service Plan.

What is the process for registering and withdrawing from the Virtual Learning Program?

Students have until July 31st to register for the virtual learning. To register virtual learning students must first complete the TCS D registration process in PowerSchool. After completing registration, an email should be sent to the counselor, and a Virtual Learning Program application should be submitted. Once approved, students will automatically be enrolled in the virtual instructional program for the entire nine week period. To change from Virtual Learning Program to traditional, an email must be sent to the school counselor.

If my child withdraws from the virtual learning and transfers to the traditional setting or vice versa, will his/her teacher(s) and/or schedule change?

The schedule and/or classroom teacher(s) could change if a student transfers from the Virtual Learning Program to a traditional setting or vice versa. This will vary by school, grade, and/or course.

Will students enrolled in the virtual learning be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities such as athletics and fine arts will be available to virtual learners to the greatest extent possible. The opportunity to participate is not a guarantee, we will follow all guidelines from MDE, MDHS, MHSAA, etc.

If a student transfers to the traditional setting during the year, could the student participate in extracurricular activities?

This will be a school-based decision taking into consideration guidelines put forth from the MSHAA.

Will students enrolled in the virtual learning be able to participate in Vo-Tech?

Due to the hands-on application of the vocational curriculum, it will not be an option for Virtual Learning Program students.

Can my student receive lunch if enrolled in the virtual learning?

Yes. Parents can opt for meals when applying for Virtual Learning Program. Meals must be picked up each day at a designated location and time.

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