

VIRTUAL ONLINE COURSES

The Board recognizes that online coursework may be a good alternative for students to not only meet graduation requirements but, also have the opportunity to take advanced or other courses not offered by the school district.

High school students may earn credits to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses offered through agencies approved by the Board. Consideration for the maximum number of credits earned will be at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Credit from an online or virtual course may be earned only in the following circumstances:

- The course is not offered at the high school;
- Although the course is offered at the high school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict that would keep the student from meeting graduation requirements;
- The course will serve as a supplement to extend homebound instruction;
- The student has been expelled from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued; or,
- The principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.

Students applying for permission to take a virtual course shall complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment. In addition, the express approval of the principal shall be obtained before a student enrolls in an online course. The school must receive an official record of the final grade before credit toward graduation will be recognized.

Provided courses are part of the students regular school day coursework and within budgetary parameters, the costs for a virtual course, such as textbooks or school supplies, shall be borne by the school district or parents based on the nature of the request at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference:

- Iowa Code 279.8 (2013)
- 281 I.A.C. 15

Cross Reference:

- 605.06 Internet/Email Appropriate Use
- 501.06 Student Transfers In