



GULFPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-2022 Gulfport Virtual Academy

Guidelines and Expectations

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Gulfport School District will offer a virtual learning program for students in grades K-10 in accordance with State Board Policy 56.2. For the virtual learning program, all MDE process standards (i.e., student-teacher ratios, instructional practices, planning time, compulsory attendance, teacher evaluations, etc.) will be held to the same standards as in-person learning.

This document provides an overview of the virtual learning program and outlines the roles and responsibilities of virtual students and their parents/guardians for the 2021-2022 school year.

SCHEDULE

Full-time virtual students will receive 330 minutes of daily instruction through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction using the Gulfport School District's current curriculum. Lesson plans will include details for virtual learning and denote synchronous vs asynchronous activities.

- **SYNCHRONOUS:** Students will be required to log in to a video conferencing platform at times designated by their teacher to participate in live classes with teachers and student peers. A schedule of virtual meeting log in times will be provided by the teacher and log in times will remain the same each day. The time length of the live lesson will be determined by the teacher and may vary from day to day depending upon the lesson. Teachers may offer additional times throughout the day for students to log in and receive support.
- **ASYNCHRONOUS:** Students will be required to log in daily to Google Classroom and complete and submit independent assignments.

CRITERIA TO PARTICIPATE

Applicants' historical records (academic, behavior, attendance) will be reviewed to determine if virtual learning may be a good option for the student. The student and parent will also be asked to participate in an interview to assess if the home environment supports virtual learning. The Gulfport School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the provision of educational programs and services.

ATTENDANCE

For a virtual student to be counted as present, the student must be engaged in learning for a minimum of 330 minutes daily. Students will log in to a video conferencing platform at each of the required log in times and the teacher will take roll. The teacher(s) will monitor completion of synchronous and asynchronous work as proof of attendance.

DEVICES AND CONNECTIVITY

Each virtual student will be issued a district device to be used for virtual learning. Students that do not have a reliable internet connection may be issued a district WiFi hotspot.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Virtual students with disabilities will receive scheduled services through their home school. The assigned service provider will arrange meetings pertaining to the evaluation and eligibility of students with disabilities, monitor and document student progress and services, and communicate with families, teachers and administrators. Service providers will submit documentation of services provided to the Gulfport Virtual Academy Administrator.

STATE ASSESSMENTS

All virtual students will be required to participate in the required statewide assessments on a testing campus.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

To participate in virtual learning, parents and students are responsible for:

- Providing an adequate home learning environment (e.g. minimal distractions, appropriate background for video conferencing, etc.).
- Following the student handbook and classroom expectations (e.g. student conduct, dress code, food/drink allowance, etc.).
- Signing an Acceptable Use Policy for the internet.
- Meeting daily attendance requirements for virtual learning.
- Providing supervision for younger students.
- Arranging transportation to and from the school site to participate in optional extra-curricular activities.
- Communicating with virtual teachers.
- Picking up materials and resources during scheduled distribution times.
- Ensuring that technology and material resources are cared for and returned.
- Arranging transportation to and from a school site to take checkpoint assessments and state assessments.

In addition to adhering to these requirements, virtual students are expected to show adequate academic progress. If the student fails to meet these requirements or the teacher and administrator agree that the virtual learning environment is not meeting the needs of the student, the student will be required to return to in-person learning.

In selecting virtual learning as an option, I agree to adhere to these guidelines and expectations in addition to applicable expectations in the student handbook.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date