

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL: ONLINE COURSEWORK

LEARN believes that education provided through virtual/online courses can be an effective alternative means of instruction for students and can increase flexibility and accessibility in the delivery of instruction.

Virtual or remote learning is hereby defined as instruction by means of one or more software platforms as part of a remote learning model. Remote learning can enhance, supplement or enrich the existing curriculum and can provide an alternative means of instruction.

All remote learning programming must:

- articulate clear educational goals;
- clearly organize course offerings in a way that stakeholders can easily navigate;
- integrate quality instructional materials to enable and enrich student learning;
- regularly evaluate technology that supports the learning goals and enhances the learning experience;
- contain content that aligns with appropriate learning standards and includes provisions for both intervention and accelerated learning opportunities;
- provide opportunities for student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactions that support active learning;
- provide a variety of activities that include options for in-depth learning through authentic problem-solving and experience;
- integrate research-based Universal Design for Learning (UDL);
- comply with the State Department of Education Standards for Remote Learning; and
- not consist of simultaneous instruction by a teacher to students in person in the classroom and to students engaged in remote learning.

Credit from a virtual/online course may be earned under the following circumstances: a course is not currently offered at a LEARN school or is unavailable due to scheduling conflict; as part of a student's alternative education program or Individualized Education Program (IEP); or under any other specific circumstances as approved by the school administration.

LEARN students may earn course credit upon successful completion of remote coursework if they obtain approval from the school administration prior to taking the course; adhere to all LEARN codes of conduct and rules of behavior; and spend not less than one-half of the school day engaged in (i) virtual classes; (ii) virtual meetings; (iii) activities on time-logged electronic systems; and (iv) the completion and submission of assignments. These credits would be in addition to those earned by way of standard classroom-based instruction.

In order to earn credits in meeting the requirements for high school graduation through the successful completion of on-line coursework, LEARN, in compliance with C.G.S. 10-221a [(17)] shall ensure, at a minimum, that (a) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional LEARN classroom setting, (b) the content is

rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (c) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards, or virtual labs, (d) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (e) the courses are (1) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (2) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Department of High Education or regionally accredited; or (3) counted toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of any applicable examination series permitting student in grades 9 through 12 to substitute achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for meeting credit requirements for graduation.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-4w, as amended by Public Act 22-80, An Act Concerning Childhood
Mental and Physical Health Services in School

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures.
P.A. 21-46, An
Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of
Children

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LEARN