

BARBOUR COUNTY FILE: 7610

DISTANCE LEARNING AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL COURSES

1.0 Purpose:

- 1.1 Barbour County Schools ~~may~~ provides opportunities for distance learning and virtual school courses (courses via the Internet) through WV Virtual School for students in grades ~~3K~~-12 and a blended program (both virtual and traditional for students in grades ~~4K~~ and 12. These courses will be available for high school credit for students in grades 9-12 and for students in eighth grade enrolled in a foreign language or Algebra ~~1,1~~. Courses that will be accepted as virtual ~~for~~ credit for Barbour County School students are only those courses delivered through West Virginia Virtual School.
- 1.2 The school district recognizes that the preferred delivery system for coursework might be under direct teacher instruction; however, there are some circumstances in which alternative delivery is necessary.

2.0 Definitions:

- 2.1 **Virtual program** - a formal online education program in which a student learns:
 - 2.1.1 Through an online instructional platform, with some element of student control over time, place, path or pace;
 - 2.1.2 In a setting outside the traditional classroom; and
 - 2.1.3 In such a way that the modalities of each student 's learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.
- 2.2 **Eligible student** - a student eligible for attendance in public schools in a school district that provides a virtual instruction program.
- 2.3 **EL** – English learner
- 2.4 **IEP** – Individualized Education Program
- 2.5 **Virtual course** - any virtual pathway course offered by WV Virtual School that meets the specified state approved standards for that course.
- 2.6 **Virtual instruction program** – WV Virtual School as administered by the West Virginia Department of Education.

3.0 Student Eligibility and Requirements.

- 3.1 Eligible students are required to enroll in Barbour County Schools.

- 3.2 Barbour County Schools public school students enrolled and attending full time.
- 3.3 Homeschooled students, if they reenroll in Barbour County Schools, are eligible to enroll in one or more virtual courses per semester. Participation in extracurricular activities such as [sports-athletics](#) and band is based on WVSSAC rules and guidelines.
- 3.4 Homebound students may use virtual school as a supplement to extend homebound.
- 3.5 Private School/Home School students are eligible to enroll in one or more virtual courses per semester. Private school/Home School students will be charged for the cost of tuition for each course they enroll in.
- 3.6 All virtual school students will be enrolled as a student in the local school in which they reside, as outlined in Barbour County Board of Education Policy 8200.
- 3.7 Course offerings available through WV Virtual School only.
- 3.8 Parents and students must successfully complete a district defined virtual education orientation course.
- 3.9 Meet school system and/or state enrollment requirements for the course(s) in question including adhering to program/curriculum sequences.
- 3.10 It is recommended that a -minimum grade of a 70 (per grading period) on a numerical grade scale in virtual courses taken during the ~~current academic year~~[previous semester have been maintained in the core math, Ela, science and social studies. Students with grades below the 70% standard require school approval through the student assistance team \(SAT\) to participate.](#)
- 3.11 Have access to reliable internet.
- 3.12 Participants are required to complete and sign Technology Acceptable Use Policy 7600.
- 3.13 Maintain a minimum of weekly communication with the facilitator or instructor.
- 3.14 Have reliable transportation, when needed.
- 3.15 All students must be enrolled for a full schedule and meet the requirements of WVDE Policy 2510. [Homeschool and private school students may participate up to 50% of a school day without being enrolled as a full-time student.](#)
- 3.16 Students in Grades K, ~~1, and 2~~-12 may be enrolled in a blended (both traditional and virtual) program.

3.17 Guidelines for taking a virtual course if student is attending school in the traditional manner:

- 3.17.1 Students taking ~~such~~ [additional](#) courses must be enrolled at their local school, as outlined in Barbour County Board of Education Policy 8200- School Attendance Areas.
- 3.17.2 The school offers the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, as determined by the principal.
- 3.17.3 The district has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but education services are to be continued.
- 3.17.4 The school administration, the student's teachers, and the student's parents/guardians ([Student Assistant Team](#)) determine if the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- 3.17.5 The course will serve as a supplement to extend homebound instruction.
- 3.17.6 Any other specific condition which may warrant the use of virtual coursework for the student and is approved by the building principal.

3.18 A student must complete all requirements as outlined in Barbour County Schools Policy 7300 to be eligible to graduate.

3.19 Students with disabilities:

- 3.19.1 Prior to enrollment of a student with a disability into one or more virtual education courses, the student's IEP/504 team must meet and consider whether or not an online instructional delivery method is appropriate for the student to receive a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.
- 3.19.2 The IEP/504 team should also determine whether or not the student's accommodations can be provided in a virtual learning environment. Due to the unique design of virtual learning, accommodations which are conducive to the virtual environment should be clearly described within the student's plan.
- 3.19.3 School staff should also ensure confidentiality of student information pursuant to FERPA and IDEA.

4.0 Course Registration Process: The Virtual School ~~Coordinator-Facilitator~~ and building principal shall review each student's ~~Virtual-virtual~~ school schedule to ensure the student is compliant with WVDE Policy 2510 for their grade level or course of study. This registration process must be completed prior to the end of the semester previous to the semester in which the student intends to take the virtual school course. ~~For the 2020-2021 school year only, there will be a five day grace period for the beginning of the school year to get students enrolled in WV Virtual School courses.~~

5.0 Course Approval: Only virtual courses on the West Virginia Virtual School approved list will be accepted for Barbour County high school credit. Students who want to take a virtual course for credit must be fully enrolled in and attend a Barbour County public

school. It is recommended that this process begin at least a month prior to the end of the semester prior to the start of the new semester in which the students desires to attend a WV Virtual School course(s). It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the WV Virtual School Course(s) meet NCAA Eligibility Guidelines.

6.0 Facilitation: A facilitator will be assigned to meet with the students who are taking virtual courses. Mandatory sessions will be required for the purposes of progress monitoring and testing. Students who fail to attend these sessions may be denied credit. Course delivery and instruction are the responsibility of the course provider for WV Virtual School. Barbour County Schools and the school facilitator are not responsible for content or communication between the provider and the student.

7.0 Grading: Grades provided to the virtual ~~course~~ facilitator by the vendor for WV Virtual School will be recorded according to the grade percentages approved in Barbour County Schools grading policy, which will count towards the student's GPA.

8.0 Funding and Course Materials: Barbour County Schools will assume the associated costs for a Virtual School Course when this option is offered as an alternative to a traditional school setting, at the decision of the school system.

9.0 Technology Access: ~~Students will have access to virtual courses at school when the class is taken during the school day.~~ Students taking virtual courses ~~outside of the school day should off campus must~~ have adequate access to the internet at home; however, student access maybe authorized at other equipped locations such as libraries, community learning centers and homes.

10.0 Registration Deadlines:

10.1 First Semester: ~~August 24, 2020~~ Prior to the first day of the semester.

10.2 Second Semester: ~~January 4, 2021~~ Prior to the first day of the semester.

11.0 Attendance:

11.1 Public school students participating in the virtual education option will be considered as being in attendance if the students are successfully progressing in the virtual education coursework. Successful progression will mean completing courses to graduate with one's four-year cohort. Students must be progressing successfully in the coursework and communicating weekly as required with the course teacher and facilitator. Students are required to submit assignments and interact on a weekly basis with the instructor or facilitator, or as determined by the course syllabus. Failure to participate in a timely manner will result in a referral to the Student Assistance Team for determination of appropriateness of virtual school participation.

11.2 The school system reserves the right to set specific attendance requirements for each virtual course. The superintendent or his designee is authorized to develop alternate attendance policies for virtual courses, provided that students in such programs are given notice of the attendance requirements at enrollment. A student's failure to comply with such requirements may result in administrative action including, but not limited to, probation or removal from the class.

11.3 A student will not be permitted to enroll in virtual school the following school year if they have not met all state testing and WVDE accountability requirements the previous year. Students participating in virtual courses ~~will~~ be required to participate annually in the West Virginia General Summative Assessment.

11.4 Students who do not login to courses within the first five days of a class will be removed from WV Virtual School and return to brick and mortar instruction at their designated school.

~~11.3~~11.5 Students failing to login and participate in a class for a 10 day period will be referred to the Student Assistance Team for consideration of removal from WV Virtual School.

12.0 Course Progression: Students are required to progress through online courses at a rate comparable to the progression of a traditional class. Student performance will be monitored and reported on regular intervals consistent with a traditional day program by the facilitator. they are assigned to at the school.

13.0 Instructor Responsibility: Instructors will be responsible to provide:

- Syllabus,
- Rigorous curriculum,
- Be Accessible electronically,
- Progress monitoring,
- Timely Coursework Feedback,
- Final Grade.

14.0 Parents/Guardian Responsibility: Parents play a vital role in their child's education. Parents need to ensure there is access to the necessary technology. They need to monitor their child's progress and grades with the virtual courses. Parents need to provide support and encouragement as students are working on their online courses. It is important that parents provide a structure and guidance when helping their child to complete the course-work. Parents also need to be a liaison between the student and the teacher as needed. Parents should attend scheduled parent-teacher conferences or other meetings as arranged by the instructor. Parents should utilize the parent grade reporting portal and the student portal to monitor progress.

15.0 Extracurricular Activities: Fully enrolled students are considered a Barbour County student and are eligible for all extracurricular activities at their home school. Homeschooled students enrolled as at least half-time are eligible to

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participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled according to attendance zone. All ~~S~~students must meet ~~all~~ WVSSAC requirements for eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

16.0 Dropping Online Course/Transition Back to Traditional Course: Students may drop a virtual course within 5 days of commencement of the course without penalty and reenroll in a traditional class at school. Course drops must be requested in writing and submitted to the school principal. Beginning with the sixth day of the commencement of a WV Virtual School course and beyond, the student may not drop the virtual school course and return to regular school and is not eligible for reimbursement of tuition fees, if any were charged to the student for the cost of the course(s).

17.0 Assessment, Grading, Diploma: Any virtual program course taken for high school credit, regardless of the grade in which the course was taken, will be entered onto the student transcript at the semester and calculated in Grade Point Averages, etc., this will affect sports eligibility and GPA. Barbour County's dual credit policy applies to identified virtual programs, as they become available. Course grades assigned to a student's transcript must follow the WV Uniform Grading Scale found in Barbour County School's Policy 7200.

18.0 Removal: Students may be removed from virtual to a traditional day program or returned to the traditional school setting for the following reasons:

18.1 Not maintaining a 70 percent, per grading period, in each core virtual course (math, Ela, science, social studies.)

18.2 Failure to start coursework within first 5 days.

18.3 Failure to participate for 10 days. SAT referral/recommendation to remove.

18.4 SAT recommendation to remove from WV Virtual based on poor participation and/or performance.

~~18.2 Progression through coursework falls below the minimum comparable tradition course standard.~~

~~18.3~~18.5 Cheating, falsifying information, plagiarizing.

~~18.4~~18.6 School system policies, procedures, rules or regulations are violated, including rules governing the use of technology.

19.0 Student Support: Barbour County Schools is committed to provide all students with an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its virtual education program. We provide students with accessibility and supports through resources tailored to each student's individual abilities and needs. Barbour County Schools ensures that all students, including students with disabilities, have available to them a free appropriate public education.

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19.1 Instructor/Facilitator availability will be arranged.

19.2 Students who require accommodations, based upon their respective IEP or SAT student plans, may receive ~~such~~-supports such as assistive technologies, individualized support, or other accommodations conducive to the virtual environment. Such accommodations should be specified on the student's IEP/504, or SAT plan. It is the responsibility of the student's case manager to communicate, coordinate, implement and monitor the provision and effectiveness of the accommodations.

19.3 English Language Learner (ELL)~~EL~~ committee will meet to determine the most reasonable accommodations for virtual programs.

20.0 Student Responsibilities: Students should spend the first 5 days making sure they are comfortable with the technology of online learning and capable of mastering the content. Computer/internet problems, on the part of the student, will not be accepted as reasons for delays or in meeting deadlines. Only through continuous communication and consistent work can students be successful in an online course. It is essential that students maintain regular contact with their facilitator or instructor and submit assignments on time. Once enrolled, students are on a probationary period for five days. If any student has not begun the course after five days from the enrollment date, the student will be automatically removed and their local school will be notified.

21.0 Internet: Reliable home internet access is the responsibility of the family.

AUTHORITY: WV Code 18-2-5, 18-2E-9, and 18-SF-1 et. seq.
WV Board of Education Policy 2450

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

ADOPTED: 08/08/05

REVISED: 03/08/10, 07/13/20, _____