

ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria approved by the Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations to provide multidivision online courses and virtual school programs. Such contracts shall be exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Information regarding online courses and programs that are available through the school will be posted on the school's website. The information will include the types of online courses and programs available to students through the school, when the school will pay course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.

Any student enrolled in any online course or virtual program offered by the school shall be enrolled in a public school in Virginia as provided in Va. Code § 22.1-3.1. The student's parent or guardian shall give written permission prior to the enrollment of the student in any full-time virtual program offered by the school.

A student who is enrolled in Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will not be charged tuition for enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by the school.

Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online courses or virtual school programs must be licensed by the Board of Education.

The administrator of a virtual school program must hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

"Multidivision online provider" means (i) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into a contract with a local school board to provide online courses or programs through that school board to students who reside in Virginia both within and outside the geographical boundaries of that school; (ii) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple local school boards to provide online courses or programs to students in grade 9 through grade 12 through those school boards; or (iii) a local school board that provides online courses or programs to students who reside in Virginia but outside the geographical boundaries of that school. However, "multidivision online provider" shall not include (a) a local school board's online learning program in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of that school; (b) multiple local school boards that establish joint online courses or programs in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the geographical boundaries of those school; (c) local school boards that provide online learning courses or programs for their students through an arrangement with a public or private institution of higher education; or (d) local school boards providing online courses or programs through a private or nonprofit organization that has been approved as a multidivision online provider.

"Online course" means a course or grade-level subject instruction that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods and (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

"Virtual school program" means a series of online courses with instructional content that (i) is delivered by a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods; (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both; (iii) is delivered as a part-time or full-time program; and (iv) has an online component with online lessons and tools for student and data management.

Adopted: December 15, 2016

Amended: October 15, 2020

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-212.24, 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212.26, 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4.

Cross Refs.: Pol 7014.1 Purchasing Procedures