

ONLINE LEARNING

The *Orcas Island School District #137 Board of Directors* believes that a variety of learning options, including online courses and programs, are critical for 21st Century learners. The board recognizes that the online learning environment provides students with unique opportunities to become self-disciplined learners with life-long learning skills. Further, the board believes that online learning provides tremendous opportunities for students to access curriculum and specialized courses in a flexible learning environment that might not otherwise be available.

Therefore, the board supports a range of online learning opportunities that are equally accessible to all students in the school district. The board directs the superintendent to provide information to parents, students and staff regarding online learning options and the guidelines for participation.

The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to implement this policy. The procedures will include, but not be limited to, a description of student access to online learning courses/programs, student eligibility criteria, the types of online courses available to students, methods the district will use to support student success, payment of course fees and other costs, granting of course credit and conditions under which no credit will be awarded.

Cross References: Board Policy 2022	Electronic Resources
2255	Alternative Learning Experience Programs
2410	Graduation Requirements

Legal References: RCW 28A.225	Compulsory School Attendance and Admission
RCW 28A.250	Online Learning
RCW 28A.230.090	High School graduation requirements or equivalencies – Reevaluation of graduation requirements – Review and authorization of proposed changes – Credit for courses taken before attending high school – Postsecondary credit equivalencies.
RCW 28A.320.035	Contracting out – Board’s powers and duties – Goods and services
RCW 28A.150.262	Defining full-time equivalent student – Students receiving instruction through alternative learning experience online programs – Requirements – Rules
RCW 28A.150.220	Basic Education – Minimum instructional requirements – Program accessibility – Rules (Effective September 1, 2011)
WAC 180-51	High School Graduation Requirements
WAC 392-121-182	Alternative learning experience requirements
WAC 392-121-188	Instruction provided under contract

WAC 392-410-310 Equivalency course of study – Credit for
correspondence courses, electronically mediated
courses, and college courses.
WAC 392-502 Online Learning

Management Resources:

Policy News, December 2009 Online Learning Policy Required

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Online Learning

A. Definitions

- Online Courses: An “online course” is one in which more than half of the content is delivered online and more than half of the instruction is delivered online by a teacher from a different location than that of the student.
- Online School Program: “Online school program” is delivered by a school district or cooperative of school districts, and provides an online, comprehensive and sequential program of courses or grade-level coursework and instruction in which more than half of the program is delivered online and more than half of the instruction is delivered online by a teacher from a different location than that of the student.
- Online Learning Support Team: District/school staff, ms/hs counselor, principals, and teachers, will provide assistance to the student in accessing courses, understanding coursework and maintaining successful progress in the course.

B. Student Access to Online Courses and Online School Programs

The district will facilitate access to the following types of online learning opportunities:

1. Online courses:
 - a. District-created and taught online courses;
 - b. District-taught online courses created by a third-party contracted provider; and
 - c. OSPI-approved online courses created and taught by third-party course providers.
2. Online school programs:
 - a. District-created and -taught online school programs;
 - b. District-sponsored programs created and taught by third-party course providers;
 - c. District-sponsored programs created by third-party course providers and taught by district teachers; and
 - d. Out-of-district online school programs accessed through an interdistrict transfer.

C. Types of Online Courses Available

The district will facilitate access to the following types of online courses:

1. Credit recovery courses allowing students to make up failed credits needed for graduation;
2. Advanced Placement courses;
3. Foreign language courses;
4. Courses which may already be offered in the student’s school but are inaccessible to the student due to scheduling or other factors;
5. Courses not available at the student’s school that meet four-year college entrance requirements;
6. Elective and Career and Technical courses;
7. Standard-level courses meeting high school graduation requirements;
8. Grade level coursework for K-8; and

9. A course that meets the criteria for district use of a non-approved course.

D. Student Eligibility Criteria

The district will facilitate access to online learning courses and programs for students enrolled in grades 5 thru 8. Students requesting permission to take an online course or participate in a district-created online school program must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Have completed any required prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm that he/she possesses the academic level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment;
2. Comply with existing district policies for registering/enrolling in a course or district program.
3. Students interested in attending an online school program in another district must follow the interdistrict transfer procedures in OISD Policy 3140 - Release of Resident Students prior to entering that program.

E. Supporting Student Success

The district will provide the following support to students to help ensure a successful online learning experience:

1. All online students will receive assistance from the local online learning support team;
2. The counselor will advise students in selecting and registering for online learning options to which the district facilitates access;
3. The local advisor will meet regularly with online students to ensure they are connecting to the online coursework and the online teacher and are making satisfactory progress in their online coursework;
4. The district will offer a dedicated class period during the school day in which the student may connect to an online course and to their local advisor; and
5. The district will offer access to online computers during the school day.

F. Costs/Fees

1. Courses offered to students for which the district claims state education funding or that are included as part of the legally-required annual average total instructional hour offering of one thousand (1,000) hours will be paid for by the school district. Students/families may be responsible for fees as specified by the district fee schedule.
2. Courses offered to students for which the district claims no state education funding and that are not included as part of the legally-required annual average total instructional hour offering of one thousand (1,000) hours will be paid for by students/families. Students/families may also be responsible for fees.

G. Granting of High School Credit for Online Courses

1. Credit for online courses will be granted in the same manner as other course offerings in the district.
2. Currently enrolled students must seek approval prior to enrolling in an online course provided outside of the district. The student will seek prior approval and will be informed whether or not the course is eligible for academic credit from the district.

H. Information to Students and Parents or Guardians

The district will use a variety of methods to provide information to parents/guardians and students regarding online learning opportunities.

Information will be provided through the district Web page, counseling office brochures, newsletters, the student handbook and other appropriate district communication resources.

I. Criteria for District Use of Non-OSPI Online Courses

1. The district may offer courses to students from providers not on the OSPI approved list only after ensuring that they meet the criteria for district use of nonapproved courses as posted on the OSPI Web site.

J. Student Responsibilities

1. Adhere to the district's code of conduct for academic integrity.
2. Comply with course/program participation and completion requirements.
3. Maintain high academic involvement.
4. Notify the district if participation in an online course/program ceases or changes.
5. Maintain agreed-upon levels and kinds of communication with the local advisor throughout the term of the online course.
6. Participate in an online course/program orientation.

K. Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

1. Parents or guardians are responsible for costs/fees as outlined in Section F.
2. Parents or guardians are responsible for seeking appropriate technology – per district recommendations – for student participation in coursework outside of the school day or designated online learning period.

L. District Responsibilities:

1. Inform parents/guardians prior to student enrollment in any online course or program.
2. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of the online courses and programs that are available to them.
3. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of the online course/online school program prerequisites, technology requirements, course outlines, syllabi and possible fees.
4. Provide online students who remain enrolled in the district and who participate in the online course or program during the school day, with computing hardware and connectivity required for participation in the online course or online school program.
5. Inform staff, parents/guardians and students of how to seek and access technology resources and technological requirements beyond the school day.