



Dade Virtual School Option Q&A

What is Dade Virtual School?

Dade Virtual School is a part of the Dade County School system and will provide a standards-based curriculum to students online through the use of a learning management software.

Who is considered a full-time virtual student?

A full-time virtual student is one who completes all course work online in a remote location with face-to-face sessions only when requested by either the student or the school.

Who can enroll in the virtual school?

All students zoned for Dade County Schools may enroll for the 2020-2021 school year.

What is the cost of virtual school?

There is no registration fee for virtual school this year. However, students will be required to provide their own supplies and Internet access. The school system will provide a Chromebook with a signed parental agreement.

What type of student would thrive in an online environment?

Students must be self-disciplined in their work habits, enjoy academic rigor, and have a growth mindset.

Will Dade Virtual School look the same as the program our students completed last spring (March-May)?

No. The program that will be offered is very different from what students experienced this past spring. A full-time virtual student will be expected to complete all coursework assigned and will do so at their own pace. Students will have access to assistance through our teachers, but that contact will be limited in comparison to last spring. Attendance will be taken and grades will be given for all work. In order for a student to be successful in the virtual program, they will need to be engaged on a daily basis.

How will attendance be taken for students who enroll in virtual school?

Student attendance will be monitored by DCS personnel daily. Should students need to attend a doctor's appointment or if they become ill, parents would need to notify the school system in writing through email as the official excuse.

How much time is involved in taking an online course?

The time it takes to complete a virtual course varies depending on the course schedule your child selects. However, they will be expected to work on assignments daily and attendance will be monitored by the time they spend on assignments.

Who is the teacher of record that assigns the grade?

Students will be monitored by certified personnel within the school system. The student will have a schedule through their home school and will receive progress reports and report cards each grading period.

Will students be able to apply to the virtual school anytime during the school year?

A student transferring from another school system, or a student transferring from out of state, may apply to the virtual school pending eligibility. Students currently enrolled in DCS will be encouraged to apply during the district registration process. Students in grades K-5 may decide to enroll at the beginning of a nine-week period. Students in grades 6-12 may decide to enroll at the beginning of the semester. All students will have a five-day grace period after the grading period begins to return to the traditional model of learning.

Do I need to report to the school to complete any coursework?

As long as you have reliable Internet access, you may complete coursework daily any time and in any place. However, students will report to a location on campus for requested tutoring, mid-term and final exams. In some cases, students will be required to report to a campus location for inadequate progress and progress monitoring.

Do students follow a specific schedule to complete their coursework?

The benefit of students attending school online is the advantage for students to work at their own pace. However, students will follow his/her plan that is outlined for each course in the learning management system and their time spent on coursework will be monitored for attendance purposes.

Who will monitor my coursework towards completion?

Students will be assigned to a certified school staff member who will communicate with students and parents regarding their progress. Parents will also be able to monitor their child's progress through the parent portal within Infinite Campus.

What if I find that my child is not able to complete the course requirements in the virtual school?

If the parent and student feel that the virtual school is not the right option, he/she may withdraw and return to the home school at the beginning of a nine-week grading period for grades K-5. Students in grades 6-12 would need to remain in the virtual school setting until the end of the semester.

If my child decides he/she only wants to take one class online, is this option available?

No, not at this time. Students will need to be full-time within our buildings or in the virtual school full-time.

Will laptops be made available for all students?

Yes. Students may obtain a laptop from the home school with a signed parental agreement.

Will the Internet be made available for all students?

No. Students will need to ensure that they have adequate Internet access at all times in order to be successful with the virtual format.

Will my child be able to participate in a sport or extracurricular activity at their home school?

Full time students enrolled in the virtual school and on track with their studies, may be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at his/her home school during the 2020-2021 school year. However, parents will be responsible for transporting the student to and from practice.

Will my senior be issued a high school diploma if they sign up for virtual school?

Yes. All seniors who successfully complete the graduation requirements will receive a high school diploma from DCHS.

What happens if a virtual school student completes coursework before the end of the semester?

If the virtual school student completes all coursework for the year and all requirements have been met for the course, he/she may choose to enroll in another course if time permits and their principal of record approves.

Can a child with an IEP or 504 Plan enroll in virtual school?

Yes. We would work with the Director of Special Programs to ensure your student's virtual plan aligns with the federal and state laws that govern special education. We would work with the regular education teacher, parent or guardian, and other team members to create an appropriate IEP and implement each student's specially designed instruction.

What is the role of the parent?

Students must have a primary responsible adult at home to monitor their progress and assist them in meeting the requirements of the virtual school courses. DCS strongly suggests that a parent/guardian remains at home with the student while the student is attending school in order to provide academic support to the student. As a partner with the school, the parent will be a key player on the student's team and will need to actively monitor him or her every day.