



**ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**NEPN Code: IJNDB-R**

**FIRST READING**

## **INSTRUCTION**

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION**

## **VIRTUAL/ONLINE COURSES - REGULATIONS**

All virtual education programs and courses will be consistent with District instructional goals and aligned with South Dakota's academic standards, curriculum frameworks and assessments, and accredited by the South Dakota Department of Education. The administration is directed to review instructional materials periodically of virtual/online courses to ensure they meet program standards. Further, such courses must provide the opportunity for rigor, and substantial, timely interactions among staff and students.

### **Student Application for Virtual/Online Courses**

Students applying for permission to take a virtual/online course will do the following:

- Meet with a school counselor to assess the student's ability to function effectively in an online learning environment.
- Complete prerequisites and have the high school counselor confirm that the student possesses the ~~maturity level~~ skills, knowledge, and motivation needed to function effectively in an online learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a virtual course.
- Adhere to the District code of conduct to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the District and meet educational benchmarks.

### **Credit for Virtual/Online Coursework**

~~High school students may earn a maximum of four (4) units of academic credit unless otherwise specified in the student's Individualized Education Plan or approved by administration to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing virtual/online courses accredited by the South Dakota State Board of Education. Students taking such courses must be enrolled in the District. Any exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.~~  
Students who wish to participate in virtual or online courses must be enrolled in the District and select courses which are accredited by South Dakota State Board of Education. Any exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Credit from an online or virtual course may be earned in the following circumstances:

- The course is not offered at the District's high school.
- The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction or as part of an Individualized Education Plan ~~Committee~~ team decision.
- The District has long-term suspended or expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
- The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- Credit recovery for students who are not on pace to graduate with their cohort.

## **AWARDING CREDIT FOR VIRTUAL COURSEWORK**

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be recorded on student transcripts.

Credit for virtual/online coursework that a student completes prior to enrollment in the Aberdeen School District will be transferred subject to the following conditions:

- Virtual or online credit granted by another accredited high school or post-secondary institution will be approved and added to the student's transcript.
- Virtual or online credit completed in a non-accredited school or home school setting will be subject to School Board Policy JGA.

### **Costs for Virtual Coursework:**

All costs for taking virtual/online coursework will be the expense of the student and/or their family. Any exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

**ADOPTED:** December 10, 2007

**REVISED:** February 28, 2011

**REVISED:** July 23, 2012

**REVISED:** May 27, 2014

**REVISED:** March 12, 2018