

1 **3rd PARTY PROVIDED ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
2

3 The Alexandria City School Board (Board) may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria
4 approved by the Virginia Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations,
5 or other public school divisions, to provide multi-division online learning courses and virtual
6 learning programs. Such contracts shall be exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.
7

8 Information regarding Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) approved online and virtual
9 learning options provided by 3rd party organizations that are available through the school division
10 will be posted on the division’s website. The information will include the types of online and
11 virtual learning options available to students through the division, when the division will pay
12 course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.
13

14 Any student enrolled in any online learning course or virtual learning program offered by the
15 school division must be enrolled in a public school in Virginia as provided in Va. Code § 22.1-
16 3.1. The student’s parent or guardian shall give written permission prior to the enrollment of the
17 student in any full-time virtual learning program offered by the school division.
18

19 A student enrolled in ACPS who resides in the City of Alexandria is not charged tuition for
20 enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division. However, tuition
21 may be charged for summer school programs at the same rate as in-person course offerings.
22 Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online learning courses or virtual learning
23 programs must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Education and are subject to the requirements
24 of Policy GCDA: Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect.
25

26 The administrator of a virtual learning program must hold an advanced degree from a regionally-
27 accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering
28 educational programs.
29

30 **Definitions**

31 For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.
32

33
34 "Multidivision online provider" means (i) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into a
35 contract with a local school board to provide online courses or programs through that school board
36 to students who reside in Virginia both within and outside the geographical boundaries of that
37 school division; (ii) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple local
38 school boards to provide online courses or programs to students in kindergarten through grade 12
39 through those school boards; or (iii) a local school board that provides online courses or programs
40 to students who reside in Virginia but outside the geographical boundaries of that school division.
41 However, "multidivision online provider" shall not include (a) a local school board's online
42 learning program in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the
43 geographical boundaries of that school division; (b) multiple local school boards that establish
44 joint online courses or programs in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside
45 outside the geographical boundaries of those school divisions; (c) local school boards that provide
46 online learning courses or programs for their students through an arrangement with a public or
47 private institution of higher education; or (d) local school boards providing online courses or

48 programs through a private or nonprofit organization that has been approved as a multidivision
49 online provider.

50
51 Online Learning/Online course means a course or grade-level subject instruction that (i) is
52 delivered by ACPS staff or a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the
53 Internet or other computer-based methods and (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote
54 location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

55
56 Virtual Learning/virtual school program means a series of online courses with instructional content
57 that (i) is delivered by ACPS staff or a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using
58 the Internet or other computer-based methods; (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote
59 location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both; (iii) is
60 delivered as full-time program; and (iv) has an online component with online lessons and tools for
61 student and data management.

62
63
64 Adopted: May 12, 2011
65 Amended: May 14, 2015
66 Amended:

67
68
69 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§, 22.1-212.24, 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212-26,
70 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-253.13:4, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-296.4.

71
72 Cross Refs.: DJF Purchasing Procedures
73 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
74 IGBGA-R ACPS Online Learning Program

3rd PARTY PROVIDED ONLINE COURSES AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

General

The Alexandria City School Board (Board) may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria approved by the Virginia Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations, or other public school divisions, to provide multi-division online learning ~~online~~ courses and virtual learning programs~~virtual school programs~~. Such contracts shall be exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Information regarding Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) approved online and virtual learning options ~~online courses and programs~~ provided by 3rd party organizations that are available through the school division will be posted on the division's website. The information will include the types of online and virtual learning options ~~online courses and programs~~ available to students through the division, when the division will not pay course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.

Any student enrolled in any online learning course or virtual learning program ~~online course or virtual program~~ offered by the school division must ~~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 learning ~~virtual~~ program offered by the school division.

~~A student enrolled in the Alexandria City Public Schools will not be charged tuition during the regular school year for any online course or virtual program offered by the school division.~~

A student enrolled in ACPS who resides in the City of Alexandria is not charged tuition for enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by the school division. However, tuition may be charged for summer school programs at the same rate as in-person course offerings.

Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online learning~~online~~ courses or virtual learning~~virtual school~~ programs must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Education and are subject to the requirements of Policy GCDA: Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect.

The administrator of a virtual learning~~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.

Definitions

For the 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 division; (ii) a private or nonprofit organization that enters into contracts with multiple local school boards to provide online courses or programs to students in kindergarten 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 division.

Commented [1]: With the revisions, and except for the one noted exception, this is word for word the VSBA model policy.

Commented [2]: What is an equitable approach to online learning? At a minimum, I think all students/families should know what options are available to them. This policy puts the onus on students/families to seek out and find the information.

Commented [3]: Added a clause in the opening paragraph that these courses are for ACPS students, and another in the Enrollment section that states are only for ACPS students.

Commented [4]: This is not from the model policy, however the model infers that we wouldn't charge for virtual summer school courses.

Commented [5]: We charge for summer school and our neighbors charge as well for courses that are acceleration courses.

47 However, "multidivision online provider" shall not include (a) a local school board's online
48 learning program in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside outside the
49 geographical boundaries of that school division; (b) multiple local school boards that establish
50 joint online courses or programs in which fewer than 10 percent of the students enrolled reside
51 outside the geographical boundaries of those school divisions; (c) local school boards that provide
52 online learning courses or programs for their students through an arrangement with a public or
53 private institution of higher education; or (d) local school boards providing online courses or
54 programs through a private or nonprofit organization that has been approved as a multidivision
55 online provider.~~Online Learning in ACPS is used to describe online course(s) that are taken in~~
56 ~~addition to the face to face (F2F) courses. At the high school level, these courses are taken during~~
57 ~~either the school day or after school. All Virginia students are required to take an online course as~~
58 ~~part of their high school graduation requirements~~Virtual Learning in ACPS is used to describe full-
59 time participation in virtual courses, which ACPS families may request annually. Full-time virtual
60 students remain ACPS students, remain tied to their base schools, and are expected to complete
61 the school year virtually unless the school determines that returning to in-person instruction is in
62 the student's best interest academically.

63
64 Online Learning/"Online course" means a course or grade-level subject instruction that (i) is
65 delivered by ACPS staff or a multidivision online provider primarily electronically using the
66 Internet or other computer-based methods and (ii) is taught by a teacher primarily from a remote
67 location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

68
69 Virtual Learning/v"Virtual school program" means a series of online courses with instructional
70 content that (i) is delivered by ACPS staff or a multidivision online provider primarily
71 electronically using the Internet or other computer-based methods; (ii) is taught by a teacher
72 primarily from a remote location, with student access to the teacher given synchronously,
73 asynchronously, or both; (iii) is delivered as a part-time or full-time program; and (iv) has an online
74 component with online lessons and tools for student and data management.

75
76
77 Adopted: May 12, 2011
78 Amended: May 14, 2015
79 Amended:

80
81
82 Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-212.2, 22.1-212.23, 22.1-212.24,
83 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212.26, 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-253.13:4, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2,
84 22.1-296.4.

85 Cross Refs.: DJF Purchasing Procedures
86 IGBG Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
87 IGBGA-R ACPS Online Learning Program
88

Commented [6]: @izora.everson@acps.k12.va.us
This would seem to prevent ACPS from providing an online course taught by ACPS staff. Do we want to keep the option open for the division to provide online courses to ACPS students?
Assigned to izora.everson@acps.k12.va.us

Commented [7]: We have current ACPS teachers teaching online courses for students. They are teaching remotely in that they are teaching outside of their contract hours as an extra section and students do not physically report to a classroom setting. We absolutely want ACPS teachers to be able to teach online courses, as we rely on them to do so.