

# MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: VIRTUAL/ONLINE COURSES

ADOPTED: March 25, 2002

REVISED: May 18, 2009

141. VIRTUAL/ONLINE COURSES	
1. Purpose	The Board recognizes the importance of establishing a comprehensive plan to provide educational programming for all district students. To provide a thorough and efficient system of education for each child, the district may deliver courses in a format different from regular classroom-based instruction. The Internet can be used to provide access to additional virtual/online courses.
2. Authority Pol. 217	High school students may earn academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses offered by Pennsylvania public schools, colleges and universities accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, or other online providers approved by the Board of School Directors. The Superintendent, upon the recommendation of the High School Principal, may limit the number of online courses taken.
3. Guidelines	<p>Credit from a district approved online or virtual course may be earned in the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The course is not offered at the high school.</li> <li>2. Although the course is offered at the high school, the student is not able to take the course due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.</li> <li>3. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.</li> <li>4. The student has been expelled from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.</li> <li>5. The student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment as outlined in the student's special education or gifted individualized educational plan.</li> <li>6. The student is deficient in required academic coursework and credit recovery will increase chances for graduation and career success.</li> </ol>

Requirements

Students applying for permission to take a virtual/online course shall complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendation to confirm the student possesses the technology skills and maturity level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment.

A virtual/online course will be pass/fail and not be counted in the student's GPA. The virtual/online course will count towards high school graduation but will not be calculated into the GPA and class rank.

Parents/Guardians of students applying for permission to take a virtual/online course must assume responsibility for providing access to appropriate computer, software, and online connectivity.

The written approval of the principal and Superintendent's designee shall be obtained before a student enrolls in a virtual/online course, if credit toward graduation will be requested.

The student may be required to participate in a proctored examination in their home school or at a regional site.

The student must submit to the high school guidance office an official transcript of the final grade received from the approved online provider before credit toward graduation will be granted.

The virtual/online course(s) must meet one (1) of the following criteria: a course that is not being offered as a current course offering, the course is needed for graduation and is not for credit recovery (scheduling conflict), the course is needed for credit recovery for graduation and is needed during the school year or summer school, the course is needed as a pre-requisite course for high school placement, an acceleration course or Advance Placement course, for homebound instruction, an alternative education placement, or as outlined in the student's individualized education plan, or as part of a documented need for an accelerated educational program.

The tuition fee for a virtual/online course may be classified as district paid or parent/guardian paid.

Courses that are district paid may include: a course that is not being offered as a current course offering, the course is needed for graduation and is not for credit recovery, an acceleration course or Advanced Placement course, for homebound instruction, an alternative education placement, or as outlined in the student's individualized education plan, as part of a documented need for an accelerated educational program.

The parent/guardian paid virtual/online courses shall include: course(s) that are needed as recovery credit(s) for graduation during the school year or in summer school, a dual enrollment course that is not offered in the high school curriculum or paid by a grant, a course that is needed as a pre-requisite course for high school mathematics placement and the student elects to take the course as a virtual/online course.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510

Board Policy – 217