Huntsville City Schools
Virtual School
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the virtual school?
The virtual school is a public school providing middle grades and high school standards based curriculum to students online through the use of a learning management system.

Who is considered a full virtual student?
A full virtual student is one who completes all coursework online in a remote location with face-to-face sessions only when requested by either the student or the teacher.

Who is a flex virtual student?
A flex virtual student is a high school junior or senior who chooses to complete one or two online courses while taking other courses at their high school.

Who can enroll in the virtual school?
All students zoned for Huntsville City Schools (HCS) who meet the eligibility requirements may enroll. However, for special education students, an IEP committee meeting must be held at the student’s home school to review placement and the virtual school program. The committee will either agree that the virtual school placement is appropriate or may decide that the student cannot be appropriately served at the virtual school and should remain at the home school for more appropriate placement and services.

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. If a student is taking five courses, then the student should be working approximately 5 hours per day with a minimum of 25 hours a week.

How will state mandated assessments be administered?
Students will take all assessments at his/her home school.

Will my child be able to participate in a sport at their home school as a full virtual student?
Full virtual students are eligible to participate in a sport at their home school.

Who is the teacher of record that assigns the grade?
Certified teachers at the virtual school will assign grades.
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 enrolled in HCS will be encouraged to apply during the district registration process or at the beginning of the semester.

Do I need to report to the virtual school to complete 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 the virtual school for requested tutoring, mid-term and final exams. In some cases, students will be required to report to the virtual school for inadequate progress and progress monitoring.

Who will monitor my coursework towards completion?
Students will be assigned to a certified school staff member who will communicate with students and parents/guardians regarding their progress. Parents/guardians will also be able to monitor their child’s progress through the parent portal.

What if my child is not keeping up with the coursework?
Please contact the virtual school to schedule an appointment to review the personalized learning plan for a possible resolution.

What if my child is not able to complete the course requirements in the virtual school?
If a student is not passing his/her course requirements to complete the required assignments he/she will be transitioned back to their home school. Also, if the parent/guardian and student feel that the virtual school is not the right option, he/she may withdraw and return to the home school. This will take place preferably at the beginning of a nine-week grading period.

If my child is in the middle grades and he/she only wants to take one class online, is this option available?
The flex program is offered to juniors and seniors. Middle grades students are able to apply to the full virtual school when the registration window opens.

Will laptops be made available for all students?
Yes, students will be able to checkout a laptop from their home school.

Do students follow a specific schedule to complete their coursework?
One of the many benefits of a student attending school online is the advantage for students to work at their own pace. However, students will follow the plan which is outlined for each course in the learning management system.

How long will my student have to complete their coursework?
All coursework is due at the end of each semester for .05 credit courses and the end of the year for 1.0 credit courses. It is strongly recommended that students follow his/her plan provided in the learning management system to prevent work overload at the end of the term. The virtual school will follow the Huntsville City Schools calendar for course completion and grade reporting.
Are the courses approved by NCAA?
Yes, courses are approved for initial credit. Credit recovery courses are not approved by the NCAA.

As a full virtual student, will my child be able to participate in band, choir, JROTC or other performance based extracurricular activity during the school day at the home school
If a student is enrolled in band, choir, JROTC or any other performance based extracurricular activity during the school year, they can still participate in the virtual school program. However, it will be the parent/guardian’s responsibility to transport the student to the home school for that class or practice.

Will the Virtual School issue a high school diploma?
No. All students who successfully complete the graduation requirements will receive a high school diploma from his/her home school.

Will my child report to the virtual school for attendance?
Students fulfill attendance requirements when they log in to their courses daily working towards course progression. Voyager School students are required to abide by Huntsville City Schools, attendance policies and procedures (flex students will report to their home school and follow their class schedule).

How many credits per year are the virtual school students required to take?
Students are required to earn at least eight credits per year. Four of the eight credits must be core classes (math, science, English, and social studies) unless the student has accumulated more core credits than is required for the student to remain on track for graduation. With principal and parent/guardian permission, students may be allowed to attempt additional credits per year.

What if my child is a semester or year behind in school? Can he/she become a full virtual student to obtain credits to catch up?
All students must be on track for graduation to be a full virtual student.

What happens if a student fails a course?
Students who fail a course may choose to attend summer school at a specified location.

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.

Will a student be able to exempt their final exam in an online course?
No, students in online courses cannot exempt exams.

Is the virtual school program an accredited school?
The virtual school is a state mandated program implemented by Huntsville City Schools. Students are enrolled in their home school and all students will have a teacher of record.