

Esko Public Schools

Original Adoption: 1996

Revised: 2006

Adopted: 2006

624 ON-LINE LEARNING OPTIONS

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect the statutory requirements of Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (2003), the On-Line Learning Option Act.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and govern on-line learning options of students enrolled in the school district for purposes of compulsory attendance.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall not prohibit an enrolled student from applying to enroll in on-line learning.
- B. The school district shall grant academic credit for completing the requirements of an on-line learning course or program.
- C. The school district shall allow an on-line learning student to have the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in the school district as all other students in the school district.
- D. The school district shall continue to provide non-academic services to on-line learning students.
- E. On-line learning students may participate in the extracurricular activities of the school district on the same basis as other enrolled students.
- F. A student with a disability may enroll in an on-line learning course or program if the student's IEP team determines that on-line learning is appropriate education for the student.
- G. To the extent the school district provides curriculum to resident students that has both physical and electronic components, the school district must make the electronic component accessible to a resident student in a home school at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian, provided that the school district does not incur more than an incidental cost as a result of providing access electronically.

[Note: The school district may itself offer on-line learning. If it does, it is subject to numerous reporting and review requirements but may also be eligible for state funding. To the extent on-line learning is offered by the school district to its enrolled students, it is not subject to the Department of Education reporting or review requirements and cannot generate on-line learning funds. See Minn. Stat. § 124D.095, Subd. 4(ee).]

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “On-line learning” is an interactive course or program that delivers instruction from a teacher to a student by computer, is combined with other traditional delivery methods that include frequent student assessment and may include actual teacher contact time, and meets or exceeds state academic standards.
- B. “On-line learning student” is a student enrolled in the school district for purposes of compulsory attendance and enrolled in an on-line learning course or program delivered by an authorized provider.
- C. “On-line learning provider” is another school district, an intermediate school district, or an organization of two or more school districts operating under a joint powers agreement, or a charter school located in Minnesota that provides on-line learning to students.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Dissemination and Receipt of Information
 - 1. The school district shall make available information about on-line learning to all interested people. The school district may utilize the list of approved on-line learning providers and on-line learning courses and programs developed, published, and maintained by the Minnesota Department of Education.
 - 2. The school district will receive and maintain information provided to it by on-line learning providers.
- B. Students
 - 1. A student may apply to an on-line learning provider to enroll in on-line learning. The student must have the written consent of a parent or guardian to do so if the student is under eighteen (18) years of age.

2. An on-line learning student must notify the school district at least thirty (30) days before taking an on-line learning course or program if the school district is not providing the on-line learning.
3. An on-line learning provider will notify the school district and the student within ten (10) days of acceptance of the student's on-line learning course or program and hours of instruction.
4. An on-line learning student may enroll during a single school year in a maximum of twelve (12) semester-long courses or their equivalent delivered by an on-line learning provider or the school district.
5. An on-line learning student may complete course work at a grade level that is different from the student's current grade level.
6. An on-line learning student may enroll in additional courses with the on-line learning provider under a separate agreement that includes terms for payment of any tuition or course fees.

C. Classroom Membership and Teacher Contact Time

1. The school district may reduce an on-line learning student's regular classroom instructional membership in proportion to the student's membership in on-line learning courses.
2. The school district may reduce the teacher contact time of an on-line learning student in proportion to the number of on-line learning courses the student takes from an on-line learning provider other than the school district.
3. A teacher with a Minnesota license must assemble and deliver instruction to enrolled students receiving online learning from an enrolling district. The delivery of instruction occurs when the student interacts with the computer or the teacher and receives ongoing assistance and assessment of learning. The instruction may include curriculum developed by persons other than a teacher with a Minnesota license.

D. Academic Credit; Graduation Standards or Requirements

1. The school district shall apply the same graduation requirements to all students, including on-line learning students.

2. The school district shall use the same criteria for accepting on-line learning credits or courses as it does for accepting credits or courses for nonresident transfer students under Minnesota law.
3. The school district may challenge the validity of a course offered by an on-line learning provider. Such a challenge will be filed with the Minnesota Department of Education.
4. The school district shall count secondary credits granted to an on-line learning student toward its graduation and credit requirements.
5. If a student completes an on-line learning course or program that meets or exceeds a graduation standard or grade progression requirement at the school district, that standard or requirement will be met.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.42, Subd. 1 (Curriculum; Electronic Components)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.09 (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Act)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.095 (On-Line Learning Option Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 605 (Alternative Programs)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 608 (Instructional Services – Special Education)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)