ONLINE/VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Online/Virtual programs provide students with alternative and expanded online learning opportunities. These programs can be designed for full-time[1] and/or part-time[2] experiences. Teachers and students are geographically apart from one another with all of the instruction facilitated online by a content certified teacher and through a learning management system.

These programs are responsible for providing all of the education services and requirements as a physical school such as special education services, administering and reporting state assessments, providing counseling, and reporting state and federal data. Programs also grant Kentucky High School diplomas in accordance with state minimum graduation requirements. Districts choosing to provide a fully online experience for students should seek an official school classification for an alternative program of A5. This classification is for a district-operated facility with no definable attendance boundaries that is designed to remediate academic performance, improved behavior or provide an enhanced learning experience. Please refer to the guidance for alternative education for more information.

The Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines are available for schools and districts to ensure quality, rigor, and impact on student achievement for online/virtual programs. These guidelines also serve as a guide for digital content developers and vendors to ensure alignment to the Kentucky Academic Standards criteria for each appropriate course. More information is available on the Online/Virtual Course Providers page.

Possible Online/Virtual Program Implementations
1. **Single District Online/Virtual Program** *(In-District Enrollment Only)*
This model applies to a district choosing to create full-time and/or part-time online/virtual opportunities for students within their district only.
2. **Single District Online/Virtual Program** *(Expanded Enrollment Options)*
This model also applies to a district choosing to create full-time and/or part-time online/virtual opportunities for students within their district. The district is eligible to adopt policies locally enabling expanded enrollment from outside district attendance borders through reciprocal agreements and/or a fee-based system. BAVEL is one example of a fully online/virtual program created by a single district with expanded enrollment from outside their attendance borders.
3. **Multi-District Online/Virtual Programs**
A consortium-like approach where multiple districts coordinate regionally *(network)* to create and maintain fully online/virtual learning opportunities for students in their respective districts. The regional program would require a separate school designation, such as A5, from one of the participating districts. This district would also be responsible for the student information system *(Infinite Campus)* records.

Additional Guidance Links

- [Virtual & Performance-based Course Setup and Attendance Verification](#)
- [State Course Code Database](#)
- [National Standards for Quality Online Programs](#)
- [National Standards for Quality Online Courses](#)
- [National Standards for Quality Online Teaching](#)

Glossary

(1) Full-time student experience is defined as a student's entire course load is facilitated online.

(2) Part-time student experience is defined as a student's course load has a percentage of classes facilitated in-person and the remaining percentage facilitated online.