

DISTANCE EDUCATION

VIRTUAL/ONLINE COURSES

All virtual education programs and courses will be consistent with District instructional goals and aligned with South Dakota's academic standards, curriculum frameworks and assessments, and accredited by the South Dakota Department of Education. The South Dakota Virtual High School will be the only authorized provider of virtual high school courses. The administration is directed to periodically review instructional materials of virtual/online courses to ensure they meet program standards. Further, such courses must provide the opportunity for rigor, and substantial, timely interactions among staff and students.

STUDENT APPLICATION FOR VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Students applying for permission to take a virtual/online course will do the following:

- Complete prerequisites.
- Meet with a school counselor to assess the student's ability to function effectively in an online learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a virtual course.
- Adhere to the District code of conduct to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of the District.

CREDIT FOR VIRTUAL COURSEWORK

High school students may earn a maximum of four (4) units of academic credit unless otherwise specified in the student's 504 Plan or Individualized Education Plan to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing virtual/online courses accredited by the South Dakota State Board of Education. Students taking such courses must be enrolled in the District.

Credit from an online or virtual course may be earned in the following circumstances:

- The course is not offered at the District's high school.
- The high school does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction or as part of an Individualized Education Plan Committee decision.
- The District has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.
- The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.

AWARDING CREDIT FOR VIRTUAL COURSEWORK

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be recorded on student transcripts. Credit for virtual/online coursework that a student completes prior to enrollment in the Brandon Valley School District will be transferred subject to the following conditions:

- Virtual or online credit granted by another accredited high school will be approved and added to the student's transcript.
- Virtual or online credit completed in a non-accredited school or home school setting will be evaluated per policy JECAAA.

COSTS FOR VIRTUAL COURSEWORK

Students will not be charged for any District provided virtual/online course that is a part of the student's 3.0 credit semester course load for underclassmen and 2.5 credit semester course load for seniors. Students will be charged at a rate established annually by the Board for any District virtual/online coursework over the applicable credit per semester course load. Students will be responsible for all costs related to virtual/online coursework that is not provided through the District.

ADOPTION DATE: September 24, 2007

Reference: JECAAA, TRANSFERS FROM NON-ACCREDITED SCHOOLS