

School Board Policy (Short Version)

Expanded Online Learning Options for Students

- 1. Purpose:** This document communicates Board policy related to student access to online courses that are provided in an interactive internet-connected learning environment, in which pupils are separated from their teachers by time or location or both, and in which a teacher who holds a valid Michigan teaching certificate is responsible for determining appropriate instructional methods for each pupil, diagnosing learning needs, assessing pupil learning, prescribing intervention strategies, reporting outcomes, and evaluating the effects of instruction and support strategies.
- 2. Policy:** The _____ Board of Education recognizes that online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. The Board believes online courses can help foster college and career readiness for 21st century learners. Therefore, the district shall provide all eligible students within the opportunity to enroll in online courses.

Furthermore, the Board authorizes the superintendent or designee to develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. The administrative guidelines will include, but not be limited to: strategies to inform students and parents of expanded online learning options; eligibility and enrollment procedures; student supervision and support services; technology access; and acceptance/denial procedures.

- 3. Online Course Provider:** The Board also authorizes the superintendent or designee to investigate the district's interest and capacity to offer online courses to resident and non-resident students as an online course provider.

Approved by the _____ Public Schools Board of Education Date: _____

School Board Policy (Long Version)

Expanded Online Learning Options for Students

Background: The Michigan Legislature took action in 2013 to expand student access to digital learning options through Section 21f of the State School Aid Act. As a result, students enrolled in a public local district or public school academy in grades 6-12 are eligible to enroll in up to two online courses during an academic term – or more if parents, students, and school leadership agree that more than two are in the best interest of the child. The legislation indicates that students may select online course offerings from their local district catalog of online courses or from those available in the Michigan catalog of online course titles (micourses.org). The legislation also requires school districts to use their foundation allowance or per pupil funds calculated in the State School Aid Act to pay for the expenses associated with the online course(s).

- 1. Purpose:** This document communicates Board policy related to online learning as defined in Section 21f of the State School Aid Act.
- 2. Applicability:** This policy applies to all students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 at the _____ School District that are taking online courses or have requested to take an online course as defined by Section 21f of the State School Aid Act.
- 3. Policy:** The _____ Board of Education recognizes that online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. The Board believes online courses can help foster college and career readiness for 21st century learners. Therefore, the district shall provide all eligible students within the opportunity to enroll in online courses.

The _____ Board of Education supports expanded online learning options for students as defined in Section 21f of the State School Aid Act. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the superintendent or designee to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy.

- 4. Procedures:** The administrative procedures will include, but not be limited to:
 - Communications plan to inform students, parents and staff of expanded online learning options
 - Surveys to gauge students/parents interest in online course enrollments
 - Student readiness and eligibility criteria, including prerequisites for specific online courses
 - District process to accept and/or deny student requests to enroll in online courses
 - Methods the district will use to support students enrolled in online courses, including local mentors
 - District payment process for online course fees and related costs such as textbooks
 - A review of the district's technical infrastructure capacity to support online learners
 - Examination of existing school/community space configurations and student supervision protocols to accommodate student work in online courses
 - Process to grant academic grades/credit earned through online courses
 - Process to record and transcript successful online course completions
 - Identification of student and parent responsibilities related to online course enrollments
 - Process to determine the rigor and quality of online courses
 - Processes to establish appropriate timeframes for students to request enrollment in an online course
 - Annual review of completion rates to determine efficacy of online learning
- 5. Online Course Provider:** The Board also authorizes the superintendent or designee to investigate the district's interest and capacity to offer online courses to resident and non-resident students as an online course provider.

Approved by the _____ Public Schools Board of Education Date: _____

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