

Virtual Learning Program

2020-2021 Information Sheet

Alan Eubanks
Virtual Learning Coordinator
aeubanks@huntingdonschools.net

tel 731.986.2222

fax 731.986.4365

The Huntingdon Special School District is offering a virtual learning option for our students during the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose is to provide additional support for families who have concerns related to COVID-19. The virtual learning program will be conducted through an online platform provided by Educere and will run concurrently with our traditional school calendar. It is important to understand that virtual learning does not replace the benefits of attending school and receiving in-person instruction.

Will my child still be enrolled in the Huntingdon Special School District?

Yes. Students enrolled in the virtual learning program will still be enrolled as a student in the HSSD.

Are parents required to pay any costs for their child participating in the virtual learning program?

No. Costs of enrollment into the program will be paid by the Huntingdon Special School District.

What grade levels will this option be available?

This option will be available for all grades K-12.

Is internet access required for participation?

Yes. Access to high-speed internet will be required to participate in the program.

Will my child be provided a digital device for participating in the on-line program?

Yes. Students in grades 3-12 will receive a Chromebook. Students in grades PK-2 will receive a Samsung Tablet. These devices are property of the Huntingdon Special School District and all policies related to the use of these devices will apply. Students are permitted to use their own device (laptop, desktop, IPAD, etc.) if desired. Smartphones are not considered a sufficient device for the virtual platform.

Will my child be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes. Students will still have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. However, it is presumed that the parent will exercise the same thought process that was used in deciding not to return their child to school.

How will my child receive academic instruction?

All academic content is provided by Educere through their self-paced online program. All instruction and other content-related activities will be presented by Educere's on-line staff, not HSSD employees. All courses are aligned with Tennessee's academic standards curriculum frameworks, and assessments.

How will my child receive grades?

Student grades will come from the assignments and assessments created and administered by Educere. Building level coordinators will conduct weekly checkpoints to transfer these grades to our database.

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Will my child still be required to take the state assessments (TCAP)?

Yes. since the student is still enrolled in the Huntingdon Special School District, students will be required to take the state assessments in the spring, per state law.

What is the attendance policy?

Per the TN State Board of Education, students enrolled in virtual learning must commit to working 6.5 hours per day in grades 1-12 and 4 hours per day for Kindergarten to stay on pace in all subjects and make adequate progress. Virtual learning coordinators at each building will monitor and record attendance each week. All HSSD attendance policies apply.

Will my child still be provided school meals while in the virtual learning program?

Yes. Grab-and-Go meals will be available for pick-up each day. This will contain food for both breakfast and lunch. A parent or designated adult will be responsible for picking these up daily.

Are there requirements for my child to remain in the program throughout the year?

Yes. For a student to remain in the program, they must be in good standing with HSSD's attendance and grading policies. Students who fail to meet these expectations or do not make adequate academic progress will be required to either, physically enroll in their base school or find an alternate accredited virtual provider at their own cost to complete their education.

Will my child be allowed to re-enroll in traditional school once they start?

Yes. Students will be permitted to re-enroll in school. However, students participating in the online learning program will not be allowed to return to school until after the current 9-weeks is over. In the case a student wishes to return to school, the parents will contact the school's virtual coordinator to discuss the timeline and requirements for returning.

Who will support and assist my child's learning while in the program?

Parents will be required to designate a **student mentor** (parent, guardian, or qualified adult) to assist the student in the program and to serve as the primary contact with HSSD administration. In essence, the student mentor is assuming the responsibilities typically provided by the classroom teacher. The student mentor will need to be committed to the following:

- Providing academic support, motivation, and guidance throughout the school year
- Ensuring student is up to date on assignments and coursework
- Communicate with HSSD program coordinators and administration
- Keeping track of attendance
- Monitoring and encouraging student engagement
- Providing daily support with **6.5 hours** of online or offline learning activities to help your child develop foundational skills and deepen understanding of the content
- Creating a location in the home that can serve as a dedicated learning space for your child

STEPS FOR ENROLLMENT

1. Complete Application.

Applications can be picked up at the district office located at 585 High Street.

2. Submit Application.

Applications need to be returned to the district office

3. Attend Parent Orientation.

Parents of students that are approved for the program will attend a parent orientation.