

DeSoto County Schools Virtual Instructional Program (VIP) Expectations and Requirements

**All DeSoto County school board policies apply to students in the Virtual Instructional Program (VIP). The purpose of this document is not to nullify or replace any school board approved policy. The purpose of this document is to clarify expectations and requirements for students and guardians while students are in the VIP.*

- Students/guardians understand a reliable internet connection and a device with a larger screen are requirements to complete and submit assignments in the VIP. District officials will work with families who have indicated that they do not have a device available to access Schoology. There is a non-refundable \$25 fee to rent a district device unless the student qualifies for free or reduced lunch in which case the fee can be waived if requested by the guardian. The acceptable device policy discusses fees, stolen or damaged equipment. The policy is located here...<https://desoto.msbapolicy.org/DistrictPolicies/ViewsAdmin/SelectedDocumentReadOnly/tabid/8412/Default.aspx?docid=275170>. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with law. It is the family's responsibility to be sure they have reliable internet in order to be part of this program.
- Students/guardians are not allowed to record, publish, photograph, stream, post to a third party site, sell, duplicate or share anything posted on or within the Schoology platform, either by Schoology or DeSoto County Schools. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with law.
- Students/guardians will follow the Schoology terms of use located here...<https://www.schoology.com/terms-of-use>. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with law.
- Students/guardians understand students enrolled in the VIP will be required to participate in assessments, consisting of class assignments, district assessments, and/or state assessments. Some of the state assessments could be required for promotion and/or graduation by state law/policy, such as is the case for all 3rd grade students and high school students enrolled in Algebra I, English II, Biology I or U.S. History. In addition, all students in kindergarten and grades 4-8 are required to take a state assessment by federal and/or state law, along with all English Learner students in all grades. These state assessments will require the student to take the assessment at the school building. School officials will work with the guardian regarding testing plans at the appropriate time.
- Students/guardians understand some programs, such as English Learners, Special Education and 504, are services written for a traditional setting. Some services and accommodations may not be appropriate or feasible in the VIP.
- Students/guardians understand DeSoto County Schools staff will not be available for direct communication or instruction outside of school hours on school days.
- Students/guardians understand the Mississippi Department of Education requires 240 minutes of daily instruction for all students, including those in a distance-learning program. This could include recorded or live teaching from the classroom teacher,

instructional videos, tasks, assignments, and/or activities. The mode of instruction will vary by school, grade level and/or course.

- Students/guardians understand students in the VIP follow the same grading policy as students in the traditional setting.
- Students/guardians understand attendance is marked daily with completed assignments and weekly interaction with the teacher. Compulsory school attendance applies to the students in VIP, just as it does with traditional students.
- Students/guardians understand that the same attendance guidelines apply to both VIP students and students in a traditional setting at the beginning of the school year. If a student in the traditional setting does not report to school in the first 3 days of the school year, he/she is automatically withdrawn from school. The same applies to VIP students. If a VIP student does not engage in online learning within the first 3 days of school, he/she will be removed from the program and withdrawn from school.
- Students/guardians understand it is the enrolled student who will complete his/her assigned work, just as students in the traditional setting. Students/guardians must follow the guidelines presented by the teacher for each assignment. Violations could result in removal from the program.
- Student/guardians understand they will use Schoology to post all completed assignments in order to be graded.
- Students/guardians understand each student enrolled in the VIP program is responsible for having and using the same materials as traditional students. School supply lists can be found on each school's website.
- Students/guardians understand students enrolled in the VIP are unable to participate in extracurricular activities and/or Career Tech.
- Students/guardians understand enrollment in the VIP program will automatically be renewed each nine weeks. Guardians can request to remove the student from the program by emailing distancelearning@dcsms.org. Removal from the program can occur at the end of a nine weeks grading period simply by request. If there is a new emergency family situation before the end of the nine weeks, a request for removal from the program can be made by completing the Early Request for VIP Status Change form. This form will not be available until August 19th. A Review Board will evaluate all forms completed before the end of a nine weeks grading period due to a new emergency family situation after August 19th. The Review Board will evaluate these requests periodically.

**By accepting enrollment into the Virtual Instructional Program, you are agreeing to all of the above statements. If you do not agree to any or all of the above statements, please email distancelearning@dcsms.org to remove your student from the program. This must occur by July 31st at 12 P.M. After this deadline, DeSoto County Schools will complete enrollment for your student in the Virtual Instructional Program for the first nine weeks grading period.*