

Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual School

Policy Statement

Recognizing that students learn in a myriad of ways, Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools promotes the education of each student through the innovation of online learning, equipping students with the knowledge to achieve personal and professional success in becoming college and career ready.

Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools offers students numerous benefits in terms of time flexibility and program customization. Along with these advantages, students also assume increased responsibility in time management, organization, self-direction, and self-regulation. The Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual is a full, online learning option for students in K-12. In accordance with the Indiana Code, school districts can develop local policies to regulate and guide the online program. Rising Sun-Ohio County offers rigorous online courses aligned to state standards that are taught by Highly Qualified Indiana licensed teachers.

Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual Student Profile

Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual students are enrolled in classes for K through 12th. Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual students' backgrounds are diverse. Our students may be any of the following:

- Students who are homeschooled and enrolled at the local public school.
- Students who are enrolled in a traditional educational program at the local school and can take some courses through the Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual.
- Students who are full-time virtual school learners and complete all coursework online at home.

Student Eligibility and Requirements

Students who meet the following requirements are eligible to participate in the virtual education program:

- Must be enrolled in Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual as a **full-time student** (5 courses per semester).
- Parents and students must successfully complete a district defined virtual education orientation course.
- Must have Indiana immunization requirements for school entry.
- Must meet school system and/or state enrollment requirements for the course(s) in question including successful completion of any prerequisite courses.

- Must maintain a minimum grade of a 70 on a numerical grade scale in courses taken during the current academic year.
- Must have access to consistent, daily internet service.
- Must maintain weekly communication.

Current Rising Sun-Ohio County students that have attended Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools must meet the following guidelines to qualify to enroll in the Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual program:

- Obtain a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the prior school year.
- Obtain a minimum of a 95% attendance rate during the prior school year.

Attendance

Students participating in the virtual education option will be considered as being in attendance if the students are successfully progressing in the virtual education coursework. Successful progression will mean completing courses to graduate with one's four-year cohort. Students are required to submit assignments and interact on a weekly basis.

The school system reserves the right to set specific attendance requirements for each virtual course. The superintendent or his designee is authorized to develop alternate attendance policies for virtual courses, provided that students in such programs are given notice of the attendance requirements. A student's failure to comply with such requirements may result in administrative action including, but not limited to, probation or removal from the class or a charge of truancy, if appropriate.

Upon satisfying all graduation requirements, students enrolled in the virtual school will receive a high school diploma from Rising Sun High School. These students will be counted in the average daily membership. All full-time virtual students will participate in all state testing and accountability requirements

Extracurricular Activities

Students enrolled as a full-time student or a blended program in the virtual school are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the school in which they are enrolled pending administrative and school board approval. Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program including any applicable IHSAA requirements. Online students will have to follow all of the same school policies as a traditional student.

Course Progression and Guidelines

Students are required to progress through online courses at a rate comparable to the progression of a traditional class. Student performance will be monitored and reported on regular intervals consistent with a traditional day program by the Educational Technology and Digital Systems Coordinator. Guidelines for taking a virtual course if student is attending school in the traditional manner:

1. Students taking such course must be enrolled at Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools.
2. The course is not offered at the student's home school.
3. The schools offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
4. The school has expelled the student from the regular school setting, but education services are to be continued.
5. The school administration, the student's teachers, and the student's parents/guardians determine the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
6. A student has failed a course and wishes to recover credits in the subject area.
7. The course may be used as an alternative to summer school instruction with the approval of the school administration.
8. The course may be part of summer school instruction provided the tuition is paid by the student's family and staff supervision/monitoring is available.
9. The course will serve as a supplement to extend homebound instruction.
10. Any other specific condition which may warrant the use of virtual coursework for the student and is approved by the building principal.

Removal

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional day program for the following reasons:

- Not maintaining a 70 percent in each course
- Progression through coursework falls below the minimum comparable tradition course standard (5 courses per semester)
- Attendance requirements are not met
- Cheating, falsifying information, plagiarizing
- School system policies, procedures, rules or regulations are violated, including rules governing the use of technology

Student Support

- Students will be required to come to an assigned district location once a month or as needed at the school's discretion. Dates and times are determined by the local school administration.
- IEP committees will meet to determine the most appropriate least restrictive environment and the most reasonable accommodations

- ELL committees will meet to determine the most reasonable accommodations

Counseling and Guidance Services

Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual will utilize personnel to assist with academic, career, and social needs as they arise. In conjunction with school counselors, students will be assisted with developing an educational plan based on transcripts, standardized assessments, career interests, and other pertinent data. The plan will be reviewed periodically to assess its appropriateness and progress toward completion.

Student Responsibilities

Students should spend the first days making sure they are comfortable with the technology of online learning and they are capable of mastering the content. Students are responsible for maintaining reliable, daily access to internet. Computer/internet problems will not be accepted as reasons for delays in meeting deadlines. Only through continuous communication and consistent work can students be successful in an online course. It is essential that students maintain regular contact with their instructor and submit all assignments on time.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents play a vital role in their child's education. Parents need to ensure there is access to the necessary technology. They need to monitor their child's progress and grades with the virtual courses. Parents need to provide support and encouragement as students are working on their online courses. It is important that parents provide a structure and guidance when helping their child to complete the course work. Parents also need to be a liaison between the student and the teacher as needed.

Technology

Students/families are responsible for providing all needed technology. Reliable, daily internet access is the responsibility of the family.

Student Code of Conduct

Students will be required to sign a student code of conduct which is considered a contract between student, family, and school district. The code will state behavior online and expectations.

Student Privacy/FERPA

Rising Sun-Ohio County Virtual will follow all FERPA requirements.

State Examination Requirements

Students will be required to follow all state examination requirements. As well as any other state requirements placed on students.

Earning Credit / Grading Scale

A 100-90

B 89-80

C 79-70

D 69-60

F 59 and below

Any student earning a 60% or above will earn credit through Rising Sun-Ohio County Schools.

Evaluation of Virtual Program

Evaluation Process will be established for the purposes of fair evaluation of each program