

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BONDUEL**VIRTUAL EDUCATION/ONLINE COURSES****Introduction**

Online Education uses the Internet to conduct education at a distance, usually in the form of courses or instructional units. It uses teaching strategies based on the same instructional design principles as those employed in classrooms, except...

- The teacher and student are in different physical locations and perhaps on different time schedules.
- Student-teacher interaction is primarily through e-mail, web sites and web chat rooms, and usually involves special software for presentation, discussion, testing, assignments, resources, records, etc...
- A student takes greater responsibility for maintaining focus, communication and timely progress

"Online learning through virtual schools is one of the most important advancements in attempting to rethink the effectiveness of education in the United States. The virtual school provides access to online, collaborative and self-paced learning environments—settings that can facilitate 21st-century skills. Today's students must be able to combine these skills with the effective use of technology to succeed in current and future jobs." (*"Virtual Schools and 21st Century Skills": A 2006 report by NACOL and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills*)

Online instruction enables the School District of Bonduel to enhance or expand course offerings or to provide as an alternative; courses that are better suited to the needs of some students.

Guidelines

1. Participation in a virtual education opportunity may be voluntary or required by district administration.
2. Students must be recommended by administration to take online or virtual course work.
3. Students must complete pre-requisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment.
4. Written approval of the building principal needs to be obtained prior to enrollment in an online or virtual course.
5. Virtual or online course work that is part of an educational plan (IEP, Section 504, at risk, or ELL) must be approved by the plan team.
6. Students may take a maximum of two courses at any one time except in extenuating circumstances approved by the building principal.
7. Course fees may be applied when appropriate.
8. Students must follow all school policies including the Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy.

Course Approval: District-wide

Courses may be approved for the following reasons:

1. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
2. The student has been expelled from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued as part of the expulsion order.
3. The principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.

Additional Course Approval High School Only

Courses may be approved for the following additional reasons:

1. The course is not offered at the high school;
2. Although the course is offered at the high school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict or as prescribed by an IEP or RtI plan.

Other Requirements:

1. All requests must receive approval of district administration.
2. The teacher of record for the course must be appropriately licensed. Other district employees may serve in role of local education guide (LEG). Some courses may be completed off campus with little or no direct contact with teacher.
3. Students taking virtual or online courses must be enrolled in the School District of Bonduel to take the courses.
4. The School District of Bonduel must receive an official record of mid-term and final grade before credit toward grade advancement (K-8) or high school graduation will be recognized.
5. If not specified in initial agreement to allow online or virtual courses, tuition fees for an online or virtual course shall be borne by the District for students enrolled full-time within the District.
6. If the course is not completed, within two weeks of the end of the semester, the student shall be responsible for costs of the entire class. Any extensions must receive administrative approval.
7. Credits transferred in from other schools may be applied toward graduation requirements upon approval by the high school principal.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statute 118.15(1)(d)
118.145(4)
118.33
118.52

Cross Reference:

Homebound Instruction – Policy IGBG
Alternative Education Programs – Policy IGBH
Technology Acceptable Use and Internet Safety – Policy IIBGA
Student Promotion and Retention – Policy IKE
Fourth and Eighth Grade Promotion Policy-IKEC
Youth Options Program – Policy IGCF

Adopted: February 6, 2012