



**NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL** – Excerpt the WCPSS High School Program  
Planning Guide 2017-2018

I. Definition of Virtual Programs

“Virtual learning” means registered students can take classes using their own computers over the Internet. Course content, assignments and demonstrations are provided on an anytime, anywhere basis. Students use email, instant messaging and online chat forums to interact with their teachers and other students. Teachers and students may talk to one another over the phone or over their computers. When students complete assignments, they can send their papers or tests to their teacher electronically. Grading and individual remarks are sent from the teacher to the student in the same way.

II. State-Sanctioned Virtual Programs

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, in partnership with North Carolina’s Distance Learning System, North Carolina Virtual Public School, Local Education Agencies (LEA), and the North Carolina University System, gives public school students the opportunity to take a wide array of online courses outside the normal school day or during the school day. The state-sanctioned virtual (online) programs are available to students as individual school resources allow. Participation in these programs requires the completion of the Dual Enrollment Form and principal approval.

The following NCVPS information can be found at [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org). The North Carolina Virtual Public School, which began in June 2007, is a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that offers online courses to public school students of North Carolina, during the school day, at home, or anywhere they have computer access.

III. Student Enrollment

Students must complete the following steps in order to enroll in online courses.

Steps to Register for Online Courses:

1. Student meets with school-based eLearning Advisor (ELA) to discuss online options and determine eligibility.
2. Student and parent/guardian submit completed Dual Enrollment Form to his/her school counselor for Principal approval. \*Students may be asked to sign a Statement of Academic Integrity in which they promise to uphold the WCPSS Code of Conduct and promote academic integrity while taking online courses.

3. The ELA determines if the student has any modifications and shares that information with the course instructor. Note: Please visit [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org) for a complete list of computer requirements

#### IV. Criteria for Course Selection

- The course must provide opportunities not currently available to the student at their school.
- Selection of online courses must follow recommended and required prerequisites as listed in the Middle and High School Program Planning Guides.
- Students enrolled in a full, daily schedule at their school may take one online course. Students enrolled in a halfday schedule may take two online courses.
- Any course that requires an End-of-Course test or a North Carolina Final Exam is approved at principal's discretion.
- Students at non-magnet schools may only enroll in World Language courses listed in the High School Program Planning Guide.

#### V. Considerations for Summer Study:

- Gradpoint should be used as the primary option for credit recovery. NCVPS is available for students needing original credit over the summer. NCVPS should be used for credit recovery only in extenuating circumstances.
- Rising 9th grade students wishing to take online courses must secure high school permission through the completion of the Dual Enrollment Form signed by the WCPSS high school principal. These students will take the EOC, NCFE, or CTE Post-Assessment at the WCPSS high school.
- Any course that requires an End-of-Course test is approved at principal's discretion.
- Middle school students have limited summer opportunities based on available personnel. Middle school students may take one course during the summer when granted prior approval.
- Any student enrolled in an EOC, NCFE, or CTE course is required to take the final exam at his/her base school.

#### VI. Student Eligibility

Students wishing to enroll in an online course must be able to:

- read on grade level as demonstrated by a passing score on the previous Reading EOG or English I EOC
- access the internet daily, browse the internet, use a clickable menu, send email, and upload and download attachments as demonstrated on the computer survey
- communicate effectively, as most courses require simultaneous discussions with the teacher and other students
- using web tools such as Blackboard, Moodle, etc.
- work at rigorous daily pace set by the instructor
- meet deadlines and manage course assignments
- discipline themselves to commit to 5 to 10 hours per week per course to complete work

#### VII. Instructional Resources

## Textbooks

While NCVPS is making strides to provide online textbooks for all courses, there are some courses that require traditional textbooks. When possible, the school will provide district adopted textbooks for students. The list of courses that require textbooks not available online can be found on the NCVPS website as well as suggestions for where to buy them. Schools may limit students to courses that utilize district adopted textbooks.

Note: Due to budgetary restraints schools may request that parents purchase any required textbooks that are not available online or readily available in their building.

## Science Labs

Some science courses require lab participation and caution should be exercised when approving students to take these courses. Some online labs are available through 'lab bench', however others are not. Descriptions of AP science courses should be examined carefully before enrollment to determine if labs are available online or if the course requires participation in labs on campus.

## Course Specific Materials

Other than the textbook, any additional resources (such as digital cameras, handheld devices, MIDIs, etc.) required by the instructor of the online course are the sole responsibility of the student.