

ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Online instructional programs offered for instructional purposes and/or high school credit shall be approved by and under the supervision of the Commerce Public School District Board of Education. The proposed course(s) may be evaluated by the State Department of Education.

Definitions

Synchronous instruction occurs when the instructor and student's primary interactions are in real-time. Regular classroom instruction is synchronous instruction, as well as two-way interactive video. Web-based instruction that requires real-time interaction between student(s) and instructor as the primary format of instruction is also synchronous instruction.

Asynchronous instruction is not dependent on instructor and student interaction in real time. Asynchronous instruction allows the student to engage in learning activities anywhere at any time. For instruction to be considered asynchronous, the primary format of instruction does not depend on real-time interaction of the participants.

Web-based instruction uses the World Wide Web as the primary medium of instruction, with a computer serving as the primary tool of instruction. Web-based instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous.

Two-way interactive video instruction provides for real-time (synchronous) interaction between student(s) and instructor by means of an electronic medium that provides for both audio (sound) and video (sight) signal. Students and instructors participating in two-way interactive video instruction may both see and hear each other in an approximation of real-time.

Guidelines

Prior to offering an online instructional course, the board of education shall comply with the following guidelines recommend by the State Department of Education:

1. Web-based and two-way interactive video instruction shall be viewed as methods by which the school district can expand the course offerings and access to instructional resources. These technologies should not be viewed solely as substitutes for direct, face-to-face student and teacher interactions, but as a means of expanding the ability of the district to bring the world of knowledge to the students.
2. The board of education will grant students credit for completion of courses offered by means of online instruction and will assume all responsibility for such coursework.
3. Only students who are regularly enrolled in this district shall be allowed to enroll in alternative instructional delivery systems courses offered for credit through this district.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION (Cont.)

4. The principal or designee shall evaluate and approve/disapprove all students' requests to participate in courses delivered by means of online instruction. Only those approved enrollments' shall be eligible for credit granted by the district.
5. The principal shall appoint a certified staff member to serve as the building level contact person to assist students enrolling in on-line courses and to serve as a liaison to the on-line teachers and provider(s).
6. Students earning credit by means of online instruction shall participate in all assessments required by the Oklahoma School Testing Program. No student shall be allowed to participate in these assessments at a place other than the school site at which the student is enrolled.
7. Courses offered for credit by means of online instruction shall be aligned with the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS).
8. Oklahoma statutes limiting the number of students teachers may supervise in each period of instruction and the total number of students allowed daily shall apply to synchronous web-based and two-way interactive video courses. The number of students each instructor may be required to supervise in asynchronous web-based courses shall be twenty-three.
9. Each teacher for two-way interactive video and web-based courses shall be provided in-service training pertaining to the methodology of instructional delivery and the technical aspects of distance learning.
10. Student progress shall be monitored on a weekly basis by the teacher. Assignments shall be graded by the teacher on a weekly basis. A syllabus shall be prepared by the teacher and posted on the school district's web-site prior to the commencement of the first class. The syllabus shall provide details to students including assignment grading, testing, and the grading scale used.
11. The security of individual student data and records shall be maintained and receive the same protection afforded students under state and federal laws. No individual student data obtained through participation in online instruction courses shall be used for any purposes other than those that support the instruction of the individual student.
12. District level aggregated data obtained through participation in online instruction courses shall be utilized for education purposes only and shall not be provided to commercial entities.
13. All federal and state statutes pertaining to student privacy, the posting of images on the World Wide Web, copyright of materials, Federal Communications Commission rules pertaining to the public broadcasting of audio and video, and other such issues shall be adhered to by the district.
14. Prior to the beginning of instruction, cooperating school districts sharing courses by means of two-way interactive video technology shall, by means of contractual agreement, address such issues as the instruction costs, bell schedules, school calendars, student behavior, teacher evaluation, textbooks, class periods, student grades and grading policies, teacher load, and instructor employment.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION (Cont.)

15. Contractual agreements shall be established between the school district and parent(s), or legal guardian, of students participating in alternative instructional delivery system courses prior to the beginning of instruction. These contracts may address such issues as grading criteria, time allotted for course completion, student attendance, and the responsibility for course costs and equipment.
16. Instructors of online courses shall be: (a) certified in Oklahoma or another state to teach in the content area of the course offered, or (b) a faculty member at an accredited institution of higher education, possessing the specific content expertise necessary to teach the course.
17. Students at remote sites who participate in the online courses offered by the district will be responsible for providing their own equipment and Internet access.
18. Annually, the board of education shall establish fees or charges for the provision of alternative instructional delivery system courses. The district shall not be liable for payment of any fees or charges for any online course for a student who has not complied with district policies and procedures.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §1-111