Q: What if our school wants to offer Virtual Arkansas courses and teachers as our Virtual Option for parents?
A: Your school or district can offer Virtual Arkansas teacher led courses for a virtual option for grades 9-12. It is possible that some courses, particularly some of the elective courses, could become unavailable due to course enrollment caps. You are encouraged to identify these students and enroll them as soon as possible.

Q: Is there a deadline to enroll students?
A: Virtual Arkansas does not have a deadline to enroll students. However, due to staffing limitations, there is an upper limit on how many students we can take. Due to these unprecedented times and the unpredictability of enrollments for the 2020-2021 school year, we are asking that you identify your students who will be taking online courses through Virtual Arkansas and do your best to enroll these students by July 24, 2020. We will review enrollments at that time and attempt to hire additional staff to meet local needs.

Q: How do I enroll my student(s)?
Students can be enrolled through the normal process in the Power Panel. Your students should already be populated in our system for quick and easy enrollment. If your staff are unfamiliar with the enrollment process, contact Mindy Looney, Virtual Arkansas Registrar at mindy.looney@virtualarkansas.org to get started.

Q: What would it cost for each student to be 100% Virtual?
A: Virtual Arkansas courses range from $60 to $100 per ½ unit (semester). A typical student, enrolled in 6 courses, would cost $1,120.00 for the whole year, or $560.00 per semester. The cost for a student for a year can range between $1,040.00 at the low end and $1,200 on the high end for 6 courses. You can review specific course fees on our Teacher Led Course Catalog.

Q: How do students get assessed (unit and semester exams)?
A: Although Virtual Arkansas has always required ALL students to take assessments under the watchful eye of a trained facilitator to ensure test integrity, we are coordinating with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to ensure approval for alternative assessment practices which would not require a live trained proctor. For those not taking proctored assessments, the assessments will likely be in the form of open responses to prompts which assess the students mastery of the applicable standards and content. We encourage you to develop local procedures to provide the facilitator and testing location for students to schedule testing times whenever possible.

Q: Do you provide Special Education Services, GT services, and other similar services?
A: No, Virtual Arkansas does not provide these types of services. Virtual Arkansas can and does adhere to modifications/accommodations provided to us for IEP, 504, ELL students. Virtual Arkansas is a supplemental program. The student is enrolled through the district and is considered a local student. Therefore, all services provided to your local students who attend in-person must be provided to the 100% virtual student.

Q: What kind of equipment does the student need?
A: The 100% virtual student will need the same type of equipment utilized by students taking Virtual Arkansas courses from school. Students must have a device (PC, Apple, Chromebook) with video (webcam) and audio capability. In addition, all software requirements as listed on the Virtual Arkansas website must be available to the student on that device (e.g. Respondus Lockdown Browser). Check the Textbook and Resource List for special requirements for courses.

Q: Do we still need to provide access to a local facilitator?
A: Yes. The triad relationship (student, teacher of record, and local facilitator) is of the utmost importance and is one of the reasons our program and students are so successful. Virtual Arkansas still requires a local facilitator to be an important point of contact for our facilitator coordinator, our teachers, and the local students enrolled in Virtual Arkansas courses.

Q: What about 100% virtual students who do not have online access?
A: As an online supplemental program, our program is designed to serve students with our teacher led service who have accessibility to the online course and content. Local schools should establish practices and strategies to serve their local students without accessibility. If you are utilizing content from our consortium catalog or content only services VA will provide offline options for those specific courses that can be utilized locally. If we experience a shutdown as we experienced last spring, VA will pivot to meet the requirements established by DESE at that time.