Virtual Learning

This information is provided as a snapshot of what Virtual Learning in Hardeman County Schools may look like. We will be transparent in saying that there are still details to work out as this has been a monumental task to undertake in such a short time frame. As with any piece of technology there may be connectivity issues, software glitches, etc. that are out of our control and families’ control. We will work through this together and communication will be key. Virtual Learning environments with daily instructional lessons are designed to be robust and intense so that appropriate learning targets are achieved. We offer this option in response to the issues that surround our communities today for families to make decisions that are best for their situation. Please contact the Board of Education at 731-658-2510 with questions or concerns (ask for Virtual Learning).

- **What is virtual learning?** Virtual learning is a learning experience that is enhanced through utilizing computers and/or the internet both outside and inside the facilities of the educational organization. The instruction takes place in an online environment. The teaching activities are carried out online whereby the teacher and learners are physically separated.

- **Enrollment** - Any school age child in Hardeman County is eligible to participate. Those who were enrolled last school year will only need to complete a virtual learning application that can be found at [www.hcsedu.org](http://www.hcsedu.org). Families currently enrolled in a homeschool or private school program are also eligible by enrolling in their assigned school and completing a virtual learning application. There is no fee associated with the virtual curriculum option.

- It will be the responsibility of the family to provide internet connectivity or access. There are provider resources listed on the district website, and we will also publish a list of public access points later in the summer. Students who participate in Virtual Learning have the option of using their own laptop or desktop or receive a Chromebook from the district for a nominal technology fee.

- Training will be required for both parents and students on the virtual learning platform. This may be virtual or in-person (to be determined).

- Virtual learning students are considered the same as those who attend traditional, brick and mortar classrooms. The school calendar will be the same for all students.

- Students in grades K-1 will most likely need a parent available at all times to effectively complete virtual learning.

- Participation in virtual learning is for a minimum of one semester. This is due to planning and scheduling purposes of both virtual classes and brick and mortar classes. In addition, students must be at an acceptable point in their virtual learning before returning to the traditional school building.
• Virtual learning students are required to work each day and attendance will be counted. There will be checkpoints where students need to be in the progression of the program. This is not a program where you can work one day per week and complete all assignments. A Student Support Specialist will be available for instructional and technical support during the day. Truancy rules apply just as they do in the brick and mortar schools.

• Grading will be similar to that of a traditional classroom. Grades will be taken weekly by a certified teacher and a report card will be issued each nine weeks. Students are expected to stay on pace with assignments and courses as determined by a plan. This is not a program that is based on self-paced completion. It will require a daily log-in to the virtual environment. Accountability meetings on campus with the parent/guardian and student will be required if the student is not completing the coursework at an acceptable pace. Tiered support plans will be implemented for students who struggle to stay on track.

• Students will exit the virtual learning program with a regular high school diploma at the end of their high school career. Credits will be aligned with the state requirements. High school guidance counselors will work with these students to create plans and schedules to stay on track. Students in grades 9-12 must complete four of the last seven semesters preceding the final semester of their senior year in traditional classrooms to qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian at the end of their senior year.

• Students who participate in virtual learning may participate in sports and extracurricular activities at their assigned school, if, they meet academic and other eligibility qualifications.

• District and state level testing will be required. Virtual students will be required to complete checkpoint assessments, diagnostics, benchmarks, and state tests on campus at a designated time and location. There are approximately 3-4 per semester.

• Once a Virtual Learning application has been submitted, families will be asked to complete an intake consultation to gain more information and ask questions that help determine if the Virtual Learning environment is appropriate for their needs. Enrollment is open throughout the year; however, we are asking that families complete these applications by July 17th so that we can appropriately plan for both virtual and brick and mortar schedules.