

Online Learning Students & Families

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm interested in part-time online learning, what do I do?

If you are interested in part-time online learning, follow these steps:

1. Explore your district's options.
2. Browse the [course catalog](#) if no program exists in your district.
3. Register after your school/district provides written approval that the online credit will be accepted.
4. Start your course.

I'm interested in full-time online learning, what do I do?

If you are interested in full-time online learning, follow these steps:

1. Explore your district's options and options at other districts.
2. Contact an [online school program](#) for availability and enrollment requirements.
3. Request a [Choice Transfer](#) if attending a program in another district.
4. Enroll in your new program or school.
5. Start your courses.

Are There Options in my School District?

Ask your school counselor or principal about potential options. Some questions you might ask are:

- What does your school and district offer?
- How do you access this option?
- What are the student performance or attendance expectations?
- How will the school support the student?
- How well do students perform in this option?
- Is this the best option for this student's needs?
- Are there community resources available?

Are There Options Outside my School District?

Follow these steps:

1. Review the [list of public schools with online options](#).
2. Contact a program about enrollment. Questions you might ask are:
 - When is the open enrollment period?
 - How would my student enroll?



- What are the student performance or attendance expectations?
- How will the school support the student?
- How well do students perform in this program?
- Is this the best option for this student's needs?

To enroll in a school or program outside your district, you must request a [Choice Transfer](#). A Choice Transfer releases your student from the local district and transfers the educational responsibility to the new school district. To make this request, contact your local school district and ask for a Choice Transfer.

Are There Options Outside the School Day?

Credit recovery, summer instruction, or classes unavailable at your local school are reasons to need an online option beyond the public school day. For each of these reasons, you must coordinate with your local school.

Follow these steps:

1. Contact your local school counselor or principal. Work with that person to decide what courses the student needs.
2. Find out who pays for the course. If your school is paying for the course, they coordinate enrollment with the online program. If the student or parent is paying for the course there are extra steps to follow.
 - Follow your local district policy for transcript acceptance. Work with your local school to transfer the course and credit when the course is complete.
 - Follow the online provider's enrollment and attendance policies.
 - Inform the provider that the course is for a Washington state student. The course must meet Washington online learning expectations.
 - Ask the course provider how to enroll the student.
 - Contact the course provider.
 - Confirm with your counselor that the course will meet the district policy. Confirm your school will accept the credit value upon completion of the course.
 - Work with your counselor to choose your courses. They may refer you to the [course catalog](#), or the course provider to find an available course.
 - Ask your school counselor or principal about the district policy. Districts have policies about what online courses and credit values they will accept.

Do I pay for the course?

This depends on the type of course. Some courses that are not considered part of the public school day may not be paid by the school/district. Please verify with the school/district who will pay for the course.

1. If the school/district is paying for the course, they enroll you with the online program.
2. If you are paying for the course:

- Find out what the transfer policy is (what courses and credit value they will accept).
- Work with your counselor to choose your course and confirm, preferably in writing, that your school will accept the credit value when you complete the course, and the type of credit (required course or elective).
- Contact the course provider. Ask them how to enroll. Tell them you are a Washington state student (the course must meet Washington state online learning expectations).
- Follow the course provider's enrollment and attendance policies.
- Work with your local school to transfer the course and credit when the course is complete.

May I attend an online school that's not in my district?

If your local/resident district does not offer the type of program you are looking for:

1. Review the list of public schools with online options.
2. Contact programs directly to find out if they have availability, when the enrollment period is, and how your student enrolls.
3. When you find a program you like and they have availability, contact your local/resident district and request a Choice Transfer.

Will my school/district accept private online credits?

Each district has its own policy regarding transfer credits. Please check with your local/resident district to learn about its transfer policy.

Can I take a course to 'get ahead'?

Please check with your local/resident school/district on:

1. Who will pay for the course.
2. If the transfer credits will be accepted.
3. How to enroll in the course.

Can I take online courses during the summer?

Please check with your local/resident school/district on:

1. Who will pay for the course.
2. If the transfer credits will be accepted.
3. How to enroll in the course.

Can I enroll in online schooling if I will be temporarily out of the state or out of the country?

Please check with your school/district for options on how to stay on track while you are outside of Washington state (if you plan on returning to that school district). Students cannot be

claimed by Washington school districts if they are not residing ('resting their heads') in Washington.

Do I need to take state assessments if I'm an online student?

Public school students (this may include ALE and Online Learning students) are expected to participate in state assessments.

Can I get my GED online?

Please contact the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, at 360-704-4400, regarding the GED.

Can I take a course from a school not on your online provider list?

Probably not, unless the district approves the course and it meets all the following criteria:

1. The course is in a subject matter not offered by an approved provider.
2. If it is a high school course, the course meets Washington high school graduation requirements specified under WAC 180.51.
3. The course provider's web systems meet conformance level A of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.
4. All instruction is delivered by certified instructors placed by Highly Qualified (No Child Left Behind) requirements.
 - Courses must be taught by WA certified instructors.
5. The course provider has been accredited.
6. The course, as advertised, is eligible for high school credit per WAC 180.51.050.
7. Course content is aligned with at least 70 percent of the current applicable grade/subject area Washington state standards. For courses whose content is not included in state standards, content is aligned with at least 70 percent of nationally accepted content standards set for the relevant subjects.
8. Courses in the following areas meet the credit/content requirements as outlined in their respective WACs:
 - Washington state history and government: WAC 392.410.120
 - Physical education: WAC 392.410.135
 - Sexual health education: 392.410.140
9. Courses offered as Advanced Placement courses have been approved via the College Board AP Course Audit.
10. The course data management systems ensure all student information remains confidential, as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

It is likely that taking a course from an approved provider will be your only option.