



Etowah County Virtual Academy

The Changing Face of Education

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Etowah County Virtual Academy is to provide motivated, independent learners who reside within the school zones served by Etowah County Schools the opportunity to earn their Alabama High School Diploma through flexible, personalized learning experiences available online - anytime, anywhere. By selecting the virtual option, students also assume increased responsibility in personal time management, organization, self-direction, and personal discipline to complete the course and school requirements.

SCOPE AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES

Etowah County Board of Education provides a virtual education option for grades 9-12 that includes, at a minimum, all courses that are needed to obtain a high school diploma. **Enrollment will only be accepted at the beginning of each semester.**

Courses will be primarily delivered through the Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS program.

METHOD

Students attending ECVA will be required to have daily access to the Internet. ECVA will not supply devices or connectivity to access the Internet. All courses will be web-based (accessed through the Internet.) Students will also be required to agree to and sign the ECVA statement of Academic Integrity Contract.

Courses will have their own pacing guidelines, which students must follow to achieve their predetermined goals. However, students are not limited by those guidelines.

BENEFITS

Students at ECVA will have:

- The benefit of instruction in courses that are aligned with the Alabama Courses of Study.
- No tuition charges, and minimal fees, if any.
- Flexible and personalized learning experiences, as well as an individualized academic and career preparation plan.
- The ability to work at their own pace, with the minimum standard being the pacing guide established by the program or ECVA administration.
- Early graduation option if graduation requirements are met. Students may move at their own pace, even if it is faster than the course pacing guidelines. If the pace enables the student to complete the required courses, then the student may graduate early. Upon graduation, students will receive an accredited diploma from their zoned school.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS

- Reside within one of the school zones served by Etowah County Board of Education.
- Be a rising 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student.
- Have consistent, daily access to the Internet (minimum 1.5 mbs)
- Be on track to graduate with the Alabama High School diploma in accordance with the requirements mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Have a **minimum** overall GPA of **2.5** in *core* courses (English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) *taken during the previous academic year*. Students with less than a 2.5 GPA may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Compliance with the district's Student Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Meet any eligibility requirements of the Alabama State Department of Education's ACCESS program, if applicable.
- Meet school system enrollment requirements for the course in question including, but not limited to, successful completion of any prerequisite courses.
- Are required to take all Unit Tests, Semester Exams, and any others determined by ECVA administration, at the ECVA site. Students will be required to schedule tests with the ECVA Coordinator and to provide their own transportation to the ECVA site.
- Are required to take any Alabama mandated tests at the Etowah County School for which they are zoned. Students must provide their own transportation to the school. Students will be informed of testing dates and requirements as soon as they are known.
- Adhere to the Etowah County Board of Education's attendance policy, and attend class daily in accordance with the adopted Board calendar. Student attendance requirement is met by logging into their courses each day.
- Must maintain a record of progression consistent with the pacing guidelines developed for each course.
- Whose education program and pathway is determined by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may apply for enrollment if the IEP team determines ECVA is the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for that student. In doing so, ECVA will follow the guidelines published by the State Department of Education on December 11, 2015. "Virtual Schools (and programs) Guidance for Students with Disabilities."
- Students will follow ECBOE Student Code of Conduct.
- Meet all other requirements for enrollment in Etowah County Schools.

COURSE PROGRESSION

- Students are required to progress through online courses at a rate comparable to the progression of a traditional class.
- Students are permitted to work ahead of the standard course progression and finish courses early.
- Students who fall behind comparable course progress will be subject to Academic Probation.

REMOVAL

Students may be transitioned back to a traditional day program if 1) the student's participation in the virtual program is impeding the student's academic progress; 2) the student fails to meet virtual course attendance requirements; or 3) the student violates school system policies, procedures, rules or regulations.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Through grade monitoring, students are expected to maintain a 60% overall average in their courses. When students fall below this overall average, they will be placed on Academic Probation. Students will remain on Academic Probation until the next grade monitoring. Students who achieve an overall average at or above 60% at the next grade monitoring will be removed from Academic Probation. Students who do not achieve an average at or above 60% at the next grade monitoring will be re-enrolled at their base school.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional day program, including, but not limited to, any applicable Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) requirements. Student residency for purposes of participating in extracurricular activities will be determined in accordance with applicable state law and AHSAA guidelines.

NCAA REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for ensuring that their coursework meets NCAA eligibility standards, if that is a necessity. See additional agreement.



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Academic Integrity Contract

Students will do their own work, will not allow others to borrow or copy their work, and will not present materials as their own when that is not the case.

Etowah County Virtual School students must take all unit tests, course examinations, Alabama mandated assessments, and any other assessments deemed by the ECVA administrator in an environment proctored by Etowah County Virtual staff.

Students are also responsible for completing unit tests and course examinations in the proctored environment without the use of study aids or computer help unless allowed by the online teacher.

Scores earned on tests or exams not taken at an approved testing site with a proctor are subject to invalidation and review by the ECVA. Additionally, in accordance with ACCESS Distance Learning policy and any other district approved Learning Management Systems policy, the student may be removed from the course with a failing grade and may be subject to dismissal from the Etowah County Virtual Academy.

As an Etowah County Virtual Academy student, I understand the Academic Integrity Contract principles. I agree to maintain the highest standards of personal integrity and academic honesty in all endeavors. I understand that any violation of these principles is likely to result in sanctions. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to, receiving an "F" on the assignment/exam/course, administrative withdrawal from the course, disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the school or district.

Student Name

Sign/Date

Parent Name

Sign/Date



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Athletic Eligibility Responsibilities

Enrollment in the Etowah County Virtual Academy provides eligibility compliance only for extracurricular activities provided by the high school to which the student is zoned. Eligibility for those activities is contingent upon meeting all requirements that a student attending school on the school's campus would have to meet, except as otherwise allowed.

The Etowah County Board of Education, Etowah County Virtual Academy, and its employees do not make, and expressly disclaim, any representation or assurance as to any student's National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility or compliance in connection with a student's enrollment in the ECVA. It is the student and guardian's responsibility to ensure that they meet NCAA eligibility and compliance standards as a condition to enrollment in the Etowah County Virtual Academy.

The student and guardian are responsible for following all NCAA guidelines including those related to course selection and course completion at the standard pace as set forth in applicable NCAA standards, including, without limitation, the NCAA's nontraditional course requirements. Monitoring appropriate course progress and course selection is the sole responsibility of the student and guardian. ECVA staff will facilitate documentation requests to assist in the eligibility process as required by NCAA.

I have read and understand the above responsibilities and conditions as they relate to courses I take and NCAA requirements, prior to enrollment in the Etowah County Virtual Academy.

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Witness: _____

Date: ____/____/____



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Application for Enrollment Application

Application for enrollment collects preliminary information for potential students. Completion of this application does not imply or guarantee eligibility for enrollment.

Student Information

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Base School: _____ Grade Level: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Why are you interested in attending Etowah County Virtual Academy?

What is your current estimated Grade Point Average (GPA)?

- 3.5 or higher
- 2.5 to 3.4
- 2.0 to 2.4
- Below 2.0

My reading skills are

- Above Average – I understand most of what I read and can summarize the main idea.
- Average – I sometimes need clarification to summarize main ideas.
- Below Average – I often have trouble clarifying and summarizing the main idea.

My writing skills are

- Above Average – Essay writing comes easy to me.
- Average – I usually need guidance to complete essays.
- Below Average – I often have difficulty preparing written essays.

I would describe myself as someone who

- Has good organizational skills and often completes assignments ahead of time.
- Has average organizational skills and sometimes misses assignments.
- Has poor organizational skills and tends to fall behind on assignments.

My time management skills are

- Above average – I usually accomplish everything I set out to do in a day.
- Average – I usually run out of time before I finish everything I set out to do in a day.
- Below Average – I usually put things off until the last minute.

I expect to devote _____ hours each school day to my online coursework and study.

- More than 8
- 6 to 8
- 3 to 5
- Less than 3

Describe your plan for becoming a successful virtual learner. Items to address may include daily schedule, academic assistance, study habits, learning strategies, social interaction, and transportation to/from testing sites.