



# **Virtual Learning Handbook**

## **2021**

## Enrollment

A virtual learning option will be offered to all students from Tuesday, August 31, 2021 until the end of the first nine weeks (October 7, 2021). If virtual learning is chosen, the student must remain in the virtual learning option until the end of the first nine weeks.

To enroll in the virtual learning option, parents must complete the virtual learning consent form on Page 7. In order for students to start the virtual learning option on August 31, 2021, parents must turn in the consent form to their child's school by 3 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021. Schools will begin taking consent forms Monday, August 23, 2021.

Please call your child's school with any questions.

## Eligibility and Participation Requirements

### Attendance

Attendance will be taken daily in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education's attendance guidelines. Required attendance during virtual learning is the same as an in-person class. A student must do at least one of the following to document his/her attendance at school each day:

- Provide evidence of authentication and engagement in instruction as follows
  - Grades PreK-5: Students must be present for live instruction via Google Meet and complete assignment submissions in Google Classroom in order to be marked present for the school day. Assignments must be completed by 3:00 p.m. daily.
  - Grades 6-12: Due to attendance collection by class period at secondary schools, students must be present for live instruction and complete assignments in Google Classroom during a given class to be counted as present for the respective class period.
- Attend and engage in instruction by any other means by which the District can verify and/or confirm the student's attendance and engagement in instruction for each day. The policy applies to those who choose a virtual option.

In the event that none of the aforementioned can be documented, the student will NOT be counted present for the school day or class period in question.

Attendance Reporting: In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, each student must be present for 63% of his/her individual virtual instructional day.

*If a student does not log on or complete assignments during a particular school day or class period, they will be allowed to make-up their work under the make-up work policy. **However, they will be counted absent for that particular school day or class period.** Just as occurs in the traditional school model, completing make-up work will not alter an absent status.*

### *Additional South Panola School District Requirements:*

Students acquiring more than three (3) unexcused absences in a grading period during this time (until the end of the first nine weeks), or not completing at least 63% of the daily assignments for a total of three (3) days, will be required to transition back to traditional instruction.

### **Required Instructional Minutes**

The Mississippi Department of Education requires 330 minutes of daily instruction for all students, including those participating in the virtual learning option. This is an increase of 90 minutes per day compared to last year.

### **Internet Connection**

The Mississippi Department of Education requires students participating in virtual learning to have access to reliable internet during normal school hours. The parent/student is responsible for reliable internet connection. Those without reliable internet connection may not participate in virtual learning.

*Paper packets are not an option.*

### **Grading**

Students will follow the SPSD board approved grading policy.

South Panola School District will require students to maintain a 75 cumulative average and a passing grade in all core subjects at the end of the nine weeks to continue in the virtual learning option (IF the virtual option is offered in the future). Students who fail to maintain a 75 cumulative average and a passing grade in all core subjects will be transitioned back to traditional learning the following nine weeks.

### **State Assessments**

Students enrolled in the virtual learning option will be required to participate in state assessments. Some of the state assessments could be required for promotion and/or graduation by state law/policy, such as is the case for all 3rd grade students and high school students enrolled in Algebra I, English II, Biology I, U.S. History, or taking the ACT. In addition, all students in kindergarten and grades 4-8 are required to take a state assessment by federal and/or state law, along with all English Learner students in all grades. **These state assessments will require the student to take the assessment in the school building.** The school will work with the guardian to complete this at the appropriate time.

### **Expectations**

All policies in the SPSD student handbook will apply to virtual learning, and a student who receives continual or severe disciplinary infractions may result in having to return to transitional school or other education options.

The student understands that it is the enrolled student who must complete his/her assigned work.

Students are not allowed to record, publish, photograph, stream, post to a third-party site, sell, duplicate or share anything posted on or within Google Classroom by South Panola School District. Violations could result in removal from the program and possible prosecution in accordance with the law.

Students will uphold the student Code of Conduct. Breach of the Code of Conduct may result in a transition to traditional learning.

## **Additional Information**

### **Food & Nutrition**

Grab and Go meals are available to students who participate in the virtual learning option. The drive thru locations are located at each school.

### **Special Education**

A student's IEP was written to provide personalized instructional support services in a traditional school setting. Some special education services and related services along with supplementary aids and services may not be appropriate or feasible in a virtual option. An IEP meeting will be held to determine the services that can be provided while the student is participating in virtual learning.

### **504**

A student's 504 plan was written to provide accommodations in a traditional school setting to provide equity due to that student's disability. Some accommodations may not be appropriate or feasible in a virtual learning option. A 504 meeting will be held to determine the accommodations that can be provided while the student is participating in virtual learning.

### **English Learner**

English Learner students will receive services as outlined in their language service plan.

### **Gifted/Merit Education**

Gifted/Merit students will receive services/assignments through Google Classroom similar to other classes.

### **Career Tech**

For our Career Tech programs, much of our curriculum requires hands-on learning and use of tools, equipment, and lab space that is provided to our students on campus. Because Career Tech uses a hands-

on learning model, there will be times when students must come to campus to participate in a hands-on activity or assessments.

## **Athletics and Extracurricular Activities**

The Mississippi High School Activities Association has determined virtual learning students are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts.

*Every South Panola School District student will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, handicap, religion or marital status.*

*At all times during virtual learning, all teachers, staff, and students will comply with student privacy and other requirements set out in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).*

## **Disclaimers**

**A virtual learning option will be offered to all students who meet the requirements. Parents may enroll their child in virtual learning starting Monday, August 23, 2021.**

**MDE has outlined certain requirements in policy 56.2 for students to participate in virtual learning. Those requirements include:**

- **Signing a commitment that acknowledges receipt and acceptance of, and commitment to, local board policy pertaining to virtual learning**
- **Participating in live lessons**
- **Reliable internet connectivity**
- **Attendance requirements (found on pages 2 and 3)**
- **Agreeing to a code of conduct**
- **Participation in in-person statewide assessments on campus**

*Paper packets are **not** an option.*

**South Panola School District has added additional requirements for participation:**

- **Students who enroll must stay enrolled in virtual learning for the entirety of the first nine weeks.**
- **Students must maintain at least a 75 cumulative average and a passing grade in each core subject (math, language, science, and social studies) at the end of the first nine weeks grading period.**

**Virtual learning students will be required to complete school work during normal school hours to be counted present.**

**The Mississippi High School Activities Association has determined virtual learning students are not eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts.**

**Virtual learning students must remain in compliance with all District policies, handbooks, rules and regulations and said policies, handbooks, rules and regulations will apply to all virtual learning students.**

**South Panola School District**

**Virtual Learning Handbook Consent Form**

By signing below, I consent to my child being enrolled in virtual learning, and I acknowledge that:

- My student will have reliable internet access during normal school hours, and I understand that paper packets are not an option
- My student will meet the attendance requirements
- My student will meet the code of conduct
- My student will come to campus to take state assessments
- My student will maintain at least a 75 cumulative average and a passing grade in each core subject
- My student will stay enrolled in virtual learning for the entirety of the first nine weeks
- I understand my student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts
- I have read, agreed to, and understand the terms of all items concerning the virtual learning handbook for the 2021-2022 school year

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_