

GACA - Virtual Instruction

Definitions

- *Virtual instruction* means teaching and learning that takes place through digital means and can be synchronous or asynchronous.
- *Distance Education* (under NDCC Ch. 15-19) means a method of learning in which students complete courses remotely through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE), a state-supported program that offers K-12 curriculum and high school diplomas, providing students with flexible access to accredited coursework.

Virtual Instruction Options

When Ashley School District find(s) it impossible or impractical to offer a course or courses in a traditional in-person format, the District may opt to offer semester or year-long virtual instruction using its own teachers or an external provider, including NDCDE or some other institution which has an accredited virtual instruction division. Students who withdraw from school for reasons of emergency may petition administration for permission to take virtual instruction toward graduation credits.

Virtual instruction may be offered as a part of the gifted and talented program of the school. Virtual instruction may also be an option for students who are unable, because of scheduling difficulties, or other documented need as provided by administration, to take a course offered by the Ashley School District that is and required for graduation. Failure in an in-person course is not justification on its own for enrollment in a virtual course. If the student can take a regularly-scheduled in-person course offered at school, that is not offered in a virtual format by the school, permission to take a virtual course may be denied. The District must notify students and their parents annually about available virtual courses through the NDCDE in accordance with NDCC § 15-19-01.1.

District Responsibilities

The District will not unreasonably restrict student access to virtual instruction options and must comply with (1) applicable laws; (2) the rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction; and (3) administrative rules applicable to onsite students, as distinguished from virtual academy students.

The District is responsible for covering the required fees when the student chooses to enroll in courses through NDCDE in accordance with NDCC § 15-19-01 (3). The District must pay for a virtual instruction course if the District does not offer the course and obtaining the course credit would contribute to the student meeting high school graduation requirements in time to graduate within the usual time frame in accordance with NDCC § 15.1-07-25.4 (d). The District has the discretion to determine whether to pay for a virtual instruction course retake in accordance with NDCC § 15.1-07-25.4 (f).

Virtual Instruction Registration

Registration for virtual instruction will coincide with the District's course registration schedule and deadlines. Once enrolled in a virtual class, the class will be listed on the student's cumulative record form. The grade will be recorded and will be used in determining the GPA of the student.

End of Ashley School District #9 Policy GACA Adopted: Sept 10, 2025