



Guidelines for Online Learning Classes within the Lowndes County School System

Purpose of Online Learning Opportunity for Lowndes County Students:

The Lowndes County School System recognizes the importance of our students becoming independent, life-long learners, and one aspect of this goal is allowing students to work through classes in an online environment. Recognizing that the business community, colleges, and universities seek graduates whose high-level digital skills match their ongoing professional and learning needs, the school system offers online classes as an option for disciplined, self-motivated students who desire this technological platform for learning.

In compliance with Senate Bill 289, online courses for the Lowndes County School System can be accessed through Georgia Virtual School. The rigor of the Georgia Virtual School (GaVS) courses mirrors the high level of expectation students are held to within the Lowndes County School System. Interested parents or students should meet with the school guidance counselor for more information. Requests for courses through other online vendors must be evaluated on an individual basis. See your guidance counselor before registering for consideration of credit. Only courses taken through Georgia Virtual School (or another online provider contracted by the Lowndes County School System) will be funded by the Lowndes County School System.

To participate in part-time enrollment for Georgia Virtual School during the 2018-2019 school year, students must register with a guidance counselor between March 12 - March 30, 2018.

Students are required to meet with a school guidance counselor or Mr. Walker (Assistant Principal and GAVS Facilitator) prior to enrollment in Georgia Virtual School.

To participate in full-time enrollment for Georgia Virtual School during the 2018-2019 school year, students must register with a guidance counselor no later than March 12, 2018.

Students are required to meet with a school guidance counselor or Mr. Walker (Assistant Principal and GAVS Facilitator) prior to enrollment in Georgia Virtual School.

Procedures

Recognizing the need for students to be ready for this type of learning, students interested in taking an online course should adhere to these procedures:

1. Read the information on the Georgia Virtual School website, www.gavirtualschool.org. Pay close attention to deadlines in the Georgia Virtual School process as well as the list of courses offered. Check this website often, as the information may change as the year progresses.
2. Take the technology readiness survey. Print the results to bring when meeting with the school guidance counselor.



3. High school students should make an appointment for a meeting with the school guidance counselor or Mr. Walker (Assistant Principal and GAVS Facilitator). Elementary school students and middle school students should make an appointment for a meeting with the school guidance counselor. Parent attendance at this meeting is mandatory.
4. If all parties agree to the Georgia Virtual School arrangement, the Enrollment Agreement is signed, and the student then registers for the Georgia Virtual class.

Other Important Details

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. The Georgia Virtual School online course can be taken off-campus during the timeframe of first or fourth block. Transportation is the responsibility of the student and/or parent. In addition, there may be a limited number of seats available at the high school for students to take a Georgia Virtual School online course at Lowndes High School during the school day. Students may need to bring their own technology in order to take the course on the high school campus.
2. Georgia Virtual School online economics and civics courses are .5 credit courses and do not currently meet graduation requirements for Lowndes County Schools.
3. Georgia Virtual School courses will only be allowed to students for courses that are not offered at Lowndes High School.
4. Students will only be allowed to advance rigor when taking Georgia Virtual School courses. For example, a student who is taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course only be allowed to take another AP course. However, if a student feels he or she would like to advance rigor, the student may do so with the understanding that once enrolled in the more rigorous course, he/she must complete the course.
5. Students are encouraged to complete enrollment in Georgia Virtual School well in advance in order to be allowed to register for 18-week courses. Sixteen-week courses are available but increase a student's workload while reducing the amount of time allowed to complete the course. Additionally, 16-week courses do not allow time to withdraw and enroll in courses at Lowndes High School should the student need to withdraw for an **acceptable** reason.
6. Students will not be allowed to enroll in 12- and 14-week courses.
7. The Lowndes County School System stresses the importance of communication with the student's counselor and Mr. Walker (Assistant Principal and GAVS Facilitator). Not all courses offered through Georgia Virtual School will meet an individual student's graduation plan.
8. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of four classes each fall and spring semester, and the Georgia Virtual online classes can be a part of these four required classes. It is the expectation students will remain enrolled in four classes each fall and spring semester, whether these classes are delivered through the local high school or through Georgia Virtual School.

9. All students who initially enroll in a Georgia Virtual School online course must complete the online course with Georgia Virtual School. ***Students will not be able to drop a GAVS course anytime during the current semester.***
10. If the Georgia Virtual School online course is taken instead of any of the regular school day instructional periods, the school system will pay for the course. If a Georgia Virtual School online course is chosen in addition to the regular school day instructional periods, (beyond four classes in the fall or spring semester), the parent will pay for the course, and additional quality points will not be awarded.
11. Requests for courses through other online vendors must be evaluated on an individual basis. See your guidance counselor prior to registering for consideration of credit. Only courses taken through Georgia Virtual School (or another online provider contracted by the Lowndes County School System) will be funded by the Lowndes County School System.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. Middle school students have the option of participating in appropriate grade-level middle school course offered by Georgia Virtual School. Academic acceleration or academic advancement will not be permitted through Georgia Virtual classes.
2. The school will make every reasonable attempt to schedule the Georgia Virtual School class at the beginning or end of the school day. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
3. The Lowndes County School System stresses the importance of communication with the student's counselor.
4. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of four academic classes each fall and spring semester, and the Georgia Virtual classes students take can be a part of these four required classes. It is the expectation students will remain enrolled in all four classes each fall and spring semester, whether these classes are delivered through the local middle school or through Georgia Virtual School. Students must participate in their home middle school's Connection Program courses.
5. All students who initially enroll in a Georgia Virtual School online course must complete the online course with Georgia Virtual School. ***Students will not be able to drop a GAVS course anytime during the current semester.***
6. If the Georgia Virtual School online course is taken in lieu of any of the regular school day academic courses, the school will pay for the course. If a Georgia Virtual School online course is chosen in addition to the regular school day academic courses, (beyond the four required middle school academic classes in the fall or spring semester), the parent will pay for the course.
7. Requests for courses through other online vendors must be evaluated on an individual basis. See your guidance counselor prior to registering for consideration of grade level appropriateness. Only courses taken through Georgia Virtual School (or another online provider contracted by the Lowndes County School System) will be funded by the Lowndes County School System.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

At this time, there are limited opportunities available for part-time online elementary school options. To find the full list of part-time and full-time online learning opportunities for an elementary school student, please visit Georgia Department of Education's Online Clearinghouse. ***Lowndes County School System does not endorse any of the online learning opportunities presented in the online clearinghouse.***

Please note that the institutions listed are ***not*** affiliated with Lowndes County School System. If parents choose to enroll their student in a full-time online learning opportunity, the student will no longer be enrolled with Lowndes County Schools. Full-time online elementary school students will not be able to participate in Lowndes County School System's extracurricular and co-curricular activities.



Lowndes County Schools High School Online Learning Enrollment Agreement

_____ (student) is requesting enrollment in the following course(s) through Georgia Virtual School during the _____ school year. Each semester, students should be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) courses which can be taken through a combination of traditional high school courses and Georgia Virtual School online courses. Students will not be able to drop the online course. Full completion of the course is required.

List each Georgia Virtual School online course request:

These courses are requested for (circle all that apply): FALL SPRING SUMMER

Awarding Credit:

1. All courses will be posted to the high school transcript and will reflect the grade reported by Georgia Virtual School.
2. AP courses through Georgia Virtual will be weighted according to the Lowndes County policy for weighting of AP courses. Quality points will be awarded for designated Advanced Placement Courses that are taken through Georgia Virtual School as scheduled during the regular four-block school day.
3. EOCs will be administered and weighted according to state policy for EOCs.

Students enrolled in Georgia Virtual School courses will be subject to the rules of Georgia Virtual School and the Lowndes County School System. For further clarification, consult with your guidance counselor. Signatures below indicate that student and parent have read the Georgia Virtual School information, and the counselor approves the student to enroll himself/herself in the Georgia Virtual School course(s) above.

In order to ensure accurate information about eligibility and requirements for high school sports and NCAA with regard to Georgia Virtual classes, it is highly recommended that the student and parent be in close contact with Georgia Virtual School, the NCAA, and the school's athletic director.

Student Signature _____ Counselor Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Administrator Signature _____

Date _____



Lowndes County Schools Middle School Online Learning Enrollment Agreement

_____ (student) is requesting enrollment in at least one course through Georgia Virtual School during the _____ school year. Each semester, students should be enrolled in a minimum of four academic courses which can be taken through a combination of traditional middle school courses and Georgia Virtual middle school curriculum courses. Students will not be able to drop the course. Full completion of the course is required. Students must participate in their home middle school's Connection Program courses.

Place a check in the box to the right of each Georgia Virtual School middle school course request:

Math	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Language Arts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
M.S. Math 6A		M.S. Lang. Arts 6A		M.S. Science 6A		M.S. Social Studies 6A	
M.S. Math 6B		M.S. Lang. Arts 6B		M.S. Science 6B		M.S. Social Studies 6B	
M.S. Math 7A		M.S. Lang. Arts 7A		M.S. Science 7A		M.S. Social Studies 7A	
M.S. Math 7B		M.S. Lang. Arts 7B		M.S. Science 7B		M.S. Social Studies 7B	
M.S. Math 8A		M.S. Lang. Arts 8A		M.S. Science 8A		M.S. Social Studies 8A	
M.S. Math 8B		M.S. Lang. Arts 8B		M.S. Science 8B		M.S. Social Studies 8B	

Final Grades:

All course grades will be posted to the middle school transcript and will reflect the grade reported by Georgia Virtual School.

Students enrolled in Georgia Virtual School online courses will be subject to the rules of Georgia Virtual School and the Lowndes County School System. For further clarification, consult with your guidance counselor. Signatures below indicate that student and parent have read the Georgia Virtual School information, and the counselor approves the student to enroll himself/herself in the Georgia Virtual School course(s) above.

Student Signature _____ Counselor Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Administrator Signature _____

Date _____