School districts are allowed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education to offer a full time or blended online learning option for students. In accordance with statute, Duncan Public Schools provides an opportunity for an interactive learning environment created through technology, in which the student and teacher are separated by time, space or both. Students will access lessons, assignments and receive assessments virtually. Using technology, teachers will communicate with students and parents in many different ways.

Our virtual school option meets all Oklahoma public school standards and graduation requirements. Instructors are Oklahoma certified teachers and employees of Duncan Public Schools. Students completing graduation requirements will be awarded a Duncan High School diploma.
FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions

Which students are eligible for the Duncan Virtual Learning program?

Any PK-12 student enrolled in Duncan Public Schools.

Is this program the same as distance learning during the Spring 2020 semester?

No. In March of 2020, the state Board of Education closed schools in Oklahoma due to the coronavirus pandemic and recommended a distance learning plan that allowed students to complete the school year at home. At that time, DPS provided families with distance learning options through online platforms. Duncan Virtual Learning Program will be a graded platform with online progress and attendance requirements.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost to participate in Duncan Virtual Learning curriculum. There may be a usage fee for devices.

What are the benefits of taking an Online Course?

- Flexible schedule
- Flexibility of time to work through coursework
- Individualized pacing
- Convenience and freedom to access courses at any time and from any place
- The comfort of working at home with parental assistance and support
- Parental involvement in education
- Individualization of student needs
- Access to enrichment opportunities

What are the cons of taking online courses?

- Lack of face-to-face and personal contact with instructor on a day to day basis
- Required access to computer and internet
- Technical problems (including computer, server, network, power)
- Needed self-discipline, self-motivation, time-management and strong organization skills
- Required technical/computer literacy and keyboarding /typing skills
- Lack of immediate help or feedback from online teacher
- Distractions when working from home
- Limits certain kinds of class instruction (modeling, demonstrations, spontaneous interactions).
- Less socialization with peers
• Time required for parental involvement in student learning

**How and when do we select the Duncan Virtual Learning program?**

Families will receive an online application form on July 20th to request enrollment in the Duncan Virtual Program. Approval for participation in extracurricular activities in 7th-12th grade will come from your site principal. The deadline for ensuring your student gets a spot in the program is August 3rd. After August 3rd applications will be reviewed and approved depending on space availability and family circumstances.

**What if a student doesn’t have access to a computer or internet?**

DPS has devices and hotspots that are available for check out by request for K-12 students. There may be a usage fee for Chromebooks for students in K-5. DMS and DHS students currently have a usage fee for Chromebooks. Pre K students will not have access to a district device but will have access to free online curriculum.

**What are the responsibilities of parents?**

A virtual instructional option is home-based. This gives parents additional responsibilities for providing instructional support, monitoring student engagement and progress, and communicating with teachers via email and telephone.

• Parents must help maintain a computer and internet access for their student’s work.
• Parents must establish an environment that is conducive to a student’s learning.
• Parents must ensure that students log in to courses, so attendance can be taken daily.
• Students in grades K-9 must have a parent or guardian commitment of at least 2-4 hours per day.
• Parents must be aware that students are expected to follow the district’s virtual attendance policy and attend (complete) their virtual courses regularly. A student’s failure to sign in to his or her digital platform account daily and/or demonstrate academic progress may have a negative impact on a student’s ability to stay enrolled as a virtual student.
What curriculum will be used for the Duncan Virtual Learning program?

Duncan Public Schools has contracted with the following outside vendors approved by the Duncan Board of Education:

**Duncan Virtual platforms**

- **Pre K** - ABC Mouse, SeeSaw
- **K-5** - Odysseyware, Study Island, Istation
- **6-12** - Edgenuity
- **Special Education** - Study Island, Edgenuity, TeachTown
- **ESL** - Imagine Learning, Rosetta Stone
- All students K-12 STEM have access to Project Lead the Way curriculum

All curriculum is aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards.

**What will my child study?**

The subjects in Duncan Virtual Learning are the same grade-appropriate core subjects as those of in school students as well as electives in the 6-12th grade. Middle School electives are set and preselected by grade level. High school students may have a larger number of elective courses based on their individual interests.

**As a high school student, how do I select my classes?**

If you have not already made course selections for the 20-21 school year your regular school counselor may contact you before school starts to help you make those selections.

**Will students receive a standard diploma if they complete graduation requirements in virtual school?**

Yes, students completing graduation requirements will receive a standard high school diploma from Duncan High School. Credits, grade point average, and any other requirements for graduation from virtual school are identical to those of the traditional high schools. Credits are transferable within the state so students do not lose completed course credits if they move from one public school to another.

**Will students be able to take honors or Advanced Placement online?**

Yes, students will have access to advanced coursework on the virtual platform.

**Will students be required to take state-mandated achievement tests or other required tests?**
Yes, students in third grade and above must take the tests mandated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Parents will be notified of the times and locations of those tests. Students taking AP tests will also take those tests in person at the assigned time. There are also required Reading Sufficiency Act screeners that will be required throughout the year for students in grades K-5.

**Will a student be allowed to be on campus for some classes and virtual for others?**

Secondary students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities on campus with approval from the site administrator.

**Will my child be in front of a screen all day?**

No. We estimate that the Duncan Virtual Learning program will require students to spend 2-4 hours a day maximum on the computer. Their screen time could be lessened depending on their grade level and course load as well as the type of subjects they study. The involvement of the parent or guardian will be crucial to ensure that the student is not spending too much time in front of a screen.

**How is my student counted for attendance in the Duncan Virtual Learning Program?**

Students are required to log into the computer daily. Duncan Public Schools verifies attendance by students signing in to their virtual courses and making successful academic progress. Students in grades K-5 may have required hours to log in during a school week as well as the flexibility to complete work in addition to the designated times.

Middle and high school students have the ability to log into their courses at any time. Attendance is determined by the student’s level of progress towards completion of the coursework. A minimum of 10-20 hours per week are recommended for satisfactory progress depending on the age of the student. Parents are subject to the Oklahoma compulsory student attendance law and are accountable for compliance in virtual school just as they are in the traditional school setting. Students with attendance/progress deficiencies may be returned to the regular school setting.

**Is my student eligible to participate in sports or other extracurricular activities?**

Students (grades 7-12) in the Duncan Virtual Learning program are eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities offered by Duncan Public Schools if they meet the academic eligibility requirements. Students and parents must work directly with their school to make arrangements for participation in extracurricular activities.

**If we enroll in the Duncan Virtual Learning program and it does not meet my student’s needs, what are my options?**
Parents should make the decision to enroll in virtual school in a very thoughtful manner. Virtual education is a tremendous option for most students, but some find the demands too strenuous. While students may always return to their regular school, it is important that parents work with the school district in the timing of the return to ensure a good transition for the student.

Students will only be permitted to return to the traditional school setting at the beginning/ending of a semester.

**May I enroll my student in the Duncan Virtual Learning program for one year only or may I enroll my student at the change of semesters?**

A student may be enrolled in the Duncan Virtual Learning program for one year or all of their school years. Enrollments at mid-year are offered. Individual student needs are considered when determining the appropriateness of a mid-year enrollment. Teachers and administrators will evaluate students every year to determine the effectiveness of the option for individual students and for the progress that they have made during the year. Students who are not successful in the Duncan Virtual Learning program may not be able to return to the virtual setting in subsequent years.

**Is this program a good fit for students who are homeschooled?**

Yes! Families who choose to homeschool may enroll in Duncan Virtual Learning program while maintaining control of their child’s at-home learning environment. The Duncan Virtual Learning program offers board-approved elementary, middle, and high school curriculum that is comprehensive and aligned to Oklahoma’s state standards. Students in grades 7-12 would also have extracurricular opportunities available. Grades and transcripts will be issued by Duncan Public Schools.

**How much time do students have to complete courses?**

Students have the same time to complete the course as students in traditional school. The program will show if the student is on track to finish on time. It is important to not get behind in the program. However, there is the flexibility to work ahead and take breaks as desired.

**What if my child has special needs?**

Parents of children with disabilities on a Section 504 Accommodation Plan or on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will want to meet with their student’s team to determine if the Duncan Virtual Learning program is the best placement for their child.
What if we discover the Duncan Virtual Learning program is not the right fit for our student and family?

We want to ensure students are placed in a successful learning environment and understand that online learning may not be for every student. A family has 14 calendar days after the first day of school to move their student back into the traditional setting. The student, parent/guardian, teacher, and site administrator will work together to make this decision. After the first 14 calendar days of the school year, a student will need to stay enrolled in the Duncan Virtual Learning program until the end of the semester.

Can I move my child into the virtual program during the school year.?

Yes, we understand that there may be circumstances during the school year that would result in a family choosing to move their student to the Duncan Virtual Learning program. In this event, an application would be required as well as approval from the site administrator to make the change. Once enrolled in the program a student would be required to remain in the Duncan Virtual Learning program until the end of the semester.

Is my student eligible for breakfast and lunch while they are learning at home?

Yes, grab and go meals will be available upon request. Families will be responsible for ordering the meals by the Friday prior to the week they are requesting.

Who do I contact for questions and additional information?

For further questions please email us at questions@duncanps.org