



TIPTON R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

305 U.S. HIGHWAY 50 EAST
TIPTON, MISSOURI 65081



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August 15, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Our district will enroll eligible students by request in online virtual courses from Launch - an online course provider in Springfield, Missouri and will consider other Missouri Course Access (MOCAP) virtual courses. More information about Launch can be found here: <https://fueledbylaunch.com/>. Students must meet the following qualifications:

- a) Students must have been a full-time student of Tipton R-VI School District for the entire previous semester prior to enrollment in a virtual course.
- b) The student must be currently enrolled in our school district. If a parent has opted to homeschool their child, they must first be enrolled with Tipton R-VI School District to be considered for virtual course enrollment and their child must have been a student the previous semester in our district.
- c) Students may need to provide their own technology to access courses after school hours.
- d) Courses must be part of the student's individual career academic plan (ICAP) if in high school.
- e) Students must be able to work well independently.
- f) All students choosing to participate in online courses must be approved by the building principal and courses undertaken online must be deemed in the best educational interest of the student.
- g) All students requesting to engage in online courses must do so during the normal enrollment periods which are the first week of each semester in August and January.
- h) All schedule changes must have parent approval.
- i) All schedule changes for special education students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) must be part of the IEP and approved by the IEP team.

Parents, guardians, and students should note that all assistance for Launch courses are offered online. Additionally, is no in-person contact or parent-teacher conferenc. Further, while internet access is available during school hours on the district school site, the school district cannot provide an internet connection for use after hours to students choosing to pursue this option. Online courses are generally more rigorous, require students to work with limited support and grades are assigned by a certified Missouri educator outside our school district. We expect there will be few if any opportunities for grade appeals. All grades from online courses are figured as part of the student's grade point average and class rank. In general, students taking online courses should expect rigorous courses with firm deadlines for completion of all assignments. Students failing to complete coursework in a timely manner will be dropped from the course and could receive a failing grade with limited recourse. All interested students must contact their counselor during the enrollment period.

I have attached a copy of our administrative procedures IGCD-AP(1) to determine if virtual instruction is in the best educational interest of the student. All parents wishing to pursue this option must contact the appropriate school principal and counselor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Terry Robinson
Superintendent
Tipton R-VI Junior/High School

A student or the student's parent/guardian must notify the student's principal or designee before the student may enroll in a district-sponsored virtual course or a Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP) virtual course through the district.

The principal or designee will educate the student and the student's parents/guardians about how virtual instruction is provided and the key differences between virtual and in-person instruction. The principal or designee will discuss the virtual course options available to the student, determine which course or courses interest the student and how the course or courses will assist the student in meeting his or her academic and personal goals. The principal or designee will also inform the student and the student's parents/guardians of whether the course is available in a traditional setting, whether the student must complete any prerequisites prior to taking a particular course and whether the prerequisite courses are offered by the district virtually or traditionally.

The principal or designee, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians and other relevant staff, such as the school counselor or the district's special education director, will determine whether there is good cause to refuse the student enrollment in the course. Students or parents/guardians who disagree with the principal's or designee's determination about a MOCAP course can appeal the decision to the Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). For all other virtual courses, students or parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee, and the superintendent's or designee's decision will be final. In accordance with federal law, if a student receives special education services, the student's individualized education program (IEP) team may determine that a virtual course is not appropriate for the student even if the course has otherwise been approved by the district.

If district staff determine that it is not in the best educational interest of a student to take a virtual course, that decision will be documented in writing and provided to the student and the parents/guardians.

Best Educational Interest Considerations

District staff should minimally consider the following when deciding whether a virtual course is in the best educational interest of a student but may consider other factors not listed.

District Course Availability

1. If the course is offered onsite by the district, are there extenuating circumstances that make it difficult or impossible for the student to take the onsite course offered by the district?
2. If the course is offered onsite by the district and the student is able to take that course, what are the reasons the student wants to take the virtual course?

Virtual Course Characteristics

1. Does the course meet or exceed district curriculum standards and graduation requirements?

2. Does the course align with the student's career goals and the student's individual career and academic plan (ICAP)?
3. If the course is for remediation, will it personalize instruction to the student's specific needs?
4. Is the district aware of any complaints or concerns regarding the quality of the course, and have those complaints or concerns been resolved?
5. Has the district had difficulty working with the course instructor or provider to ensure a student with disabilities receives the required accommodations or modifications?

Student Skills Necessary for Success in Virtual Courses

1. Has the student demonstrated time-management skills that indicate that the student is capable of submitting assignments and completing course requirements without reminders?
2. Has the student demonstrated persistence in overcoming obstacles and a willingness to seek assistance when needed?
3. Has the student demonstrated verbal or written communication skills that would allow the student to succeed in an environment where the instructor may not have sufficient nonverbal cues to indicate the student's level of understanding?
4. Does the student have the necessary computer or technical skills to succeed in a virtual course?

Other Relevant Factors

1. Does the student have adequate access to computers, Internet and other necessary technology resources to participate in a virtual course and complete assignments?
2. If the student has previously attempted a virtual course and struggled with or failed the class, have the issues that caused the student to struggle or fail been identified and addressed?

Note: The reader is encouraged to review policies and/or forms for related information in this administrative area.