

Parent Notice of SB 289/HB 175: Online Courses

In July 2012, Senate Bill 289 passed allowing students opportunities to take online courses. This legislation does not require an online course to graduate, but provides an online learning option should your student or you choose this option. In addition, House Bill 175 passed establishing a clearinghouse for parents and students to find online courses and providers in Georgia.

This notice is to inform you about the key components of the legislation and how to find online learning opportunities for your student.

Overview

- Districts must notify students and parents of online options beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.
- Districts must allow students to take an online course even if the course is offered in the local district.
- Online courses can be accessed through the Georgia Virtual School, local virtual schools, or vendor online schools. Credits will be accepted according to Towns County School Board Policy.
- If an online course is chosen in addition to the school day, the parent will pay for the course.

Online Options for Towns County Students

Towns County students may find online courses from the following sources:

- The Georgia Online Clearinghouse The clearinghouse gives parents and students in grades 3-12 the ability to search for availability to online courses, course providers, and guidelines for what constitutes high quality online courses. To access the information found in the clearinghouse at:
<http://www.gadoe.org/layouts/GADOEPublic.SPApp/Clearinghouse.aspx>

Step One: Type in the course you need (for example 9th grade Literature)

Step Two: Type in your zip code. You will then see a list of the online course providers in Georgia who have the course you selected. The program provider's names have been linked for users to access their site for registration information.

Step Three: Utilize the provider's site to register the student in the selected online course.

• Georgia Virtual School

This is an education initiative of the GA Department of Education, providing opportunities and options for students to engage in online courses to enhance their learning experiences and further their academic curricula. Information about Georgia Virtual School is located at
<http://www.gavirtualschool.org>

- APEX Learning An accredited provider of virtual courses, APEX Learning is currently being used by Towns County High School for high school course credit recovery in the 21st Century After School Program.

Prior to registering for an online course from one of the resources listed above or any other resource for consideration of credit, students will need to consult with their and school counselor.