



Long County Board of Education

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Parent Notification of Online Learning Options

In July 2012, Senate Bill 289 passed allowing students opportunities to take online courses. This legislation does not currently require an online course to graduate, but simply provides an online learning option should your student or you choose this option. In addition, House Bill 175 passed establishing a clearinghouse for stakeholders to find online courses and online course providers in the state of Georgia. This letter is to inform you about key components of each Bill and how to find opportunities for your student.

Overview of Senate Bill 289:

- 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.
- If the online course is taken in lieu of any of the regular 6 periods, then the school will pay for the course. If an online course is chosen in addition to the regular 6 periods, the parent will pay for the course.

Overview of House Bill 175:

- This bill mandates the creation of an online clearinghouse of online courses and online course providers to give parents and students the ability to search the clearinghouse for availability to online courses, online course providers, and guidelines for what constitutes high quality online courses.

Accessing Georgia's Online Clearinghouse:

The Georgia Online Clearinghouse provides students and parents with information and access to high-quality academic and career-oriented courses, aligned to state and national standards, through a variety of online providers. To access the information found in the clearinghouse go to http://www.gadoe.org/_layouts/GADOEPublic.SPApp/Clearinghouse.aspx

Additional Information:

Taking online courses during the school day is subject to the availability of personnel to supervise students and infrastructure, either physically or through technical resources. Students attending public schools are provided online options at no cost, provided the coursework occurs during their regular school day. Although these courses are provided to students at no cost during the regular school day, the school system does incur fees. In the event a student drops one of these courses, the parent must reimburse the district for all costs associated with the course. If a course is taken outside the regular school day, the parent is responsible for payment for the course.