

Russell County School District

Warrior Virtual Academy

Frequently Asked Questions



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Q. Where is the Warrior Virtual Academy?

A. The Russell County School District's Warrior Virtual Academy is located at the Central Office Annex's Seale Campus at 91 Poorhouse Road Seale, AL 36875. When completing assessments, the students will report to the Warrior Inspirational Academy area. The normal hours of operation are in accordance with the RCSD academic student calendar on Mondays – Fridays from 8:30 am until 3:15 pm.

Q. What are the enrollment criteria for the Warrior Virtual Academy?

- A. The requirements for student enrollment are that the student:
- Must reside in Russell County School District
 - Must meet all other requirements for enrollment in Russell County Schools
 - Must be a rising 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student
 - Must be on track for graduation
 - Must acquire and maintain consistent internet service (minimum 1.5 Mbs)
 - Must have an overall 2.0 GPA in courses taken during the previous school year
 - Must have no expulsions, pending tribunal actions, and no more than one suspension from the previous academic school year
 - Must comply, sign and submit a Technology Acceptable Use Policy, Transportation Agreement, and Handbook Receipt
 - Must meet the Russell County School District's Attendance policy and procedure requirements
 - Must participate in all required state assessments

Q. What are the benefits of choosing the Warrior Virtual Academy?

- A. The benefits of choosing the non-traditional approach to earning a Russell County High School diploma are:
- Instruction from Alabama-certified teachers
 - Flexible and personalized instruction
 - Early graduation option
 - Accelerated pace program
 - Academic and career coursework
 - Rigorous expectations
 - Minimal resources required

Q. What does on track for graduation mean?

A. A student who is on track for graduation has earned a credit in each core subject area (math, English Language Arts, science, and social studies) for each year of school attendance beginning in the 9th grade. If the student makes their application at midterm, "on-track for graduation" includes the condition that the student has passing averages in all currently enrolled core subject areas at the home high school.

Q. What curriculum does the Warrior Virtual Academy use?

A. The Warrior Virtual Academy primarily uses ACCESS Distance Learning, a program administered by the Alabama State Department of Education. Students may have the option of taking some coursework using PLATO online software or locally developed courses by Russell County School District teachers.

Q. Who are the teachers for the Warrior Virtual Academy?

A. The Warrior Virtual Academy utilizes Alabama-licensed teachers who are employed with Russell County School District or ACCESS Distance Learning Program. All teachers are certified in their content areas in accordance with the Alabama State Department of Education policy.

Q. What type of diploma does Warrior Virtual Academy offer?

A. At this time, the Warrior Virtual Academy offers the standard Alabama diploma only.

Q. Do Warrior Virtual Academy students have face-to-face requirements?

A. Yes, Warrior Virtual Academy students have face-to-face obligations for orientation, state-mandated assessments, tests and examinations. All course/unit tests must be taken on campus and will be proctored by a Russell County School District Employee. Students should expect to report to campus 2-3 times per week.

Q. Is transportation provided for students to report to the Warrior Virtual Academy?

A. No. Upon submitting a signed Transportation Agreement, licensed drivers may drive themselves to the Warrior Virtual Academy site located at 91 Poorhouse Road Seale, AL. All other students must be driven by a parent or guardian.

Q. What is involved with proctored examinations?

A. All course/unit tests and term examinations must be taken in the physical presence of a Russell County School District Employee. Transportation is not provided. The Warrior Virtual Academy does not allow electronic or remote proctoring at this time.

Q. How is attendance recorded for Warrior Virtual Academy students?

A. Warrior Virtual Academy students must “attend” class daily in accordance with the RCSD Academic student calendar. Students fulfill the attendance requirements by logging on to courses daily and actively participating throughout the day.

Q. Are Warrior Virtual Academy students required to take state assessments?

A. Yes. All Warrior Virtual Academy students are required to take all state-mandated assessments on site at the Warrior Virtual Academy or other specified location.

Q. How many credits per year are Warrior Virtual Academy students required to take?

A. Students are required to take at least six credits per year. Four of the six credits must be core classes (math, English Language Arts, science, and social studies) unless the student has accumulated more core credits than is required for the student to remain on track for graduation.

Q. Does the Warrior Virtual Academy follow the RCSD academic school calendar?

A. Yes.

Q. Are Warrior Virtual Academy students permitted to graduate early?

A. Yes, students are permitted to accelerate their high school course progression. Warrior Virtual Academy operates year round, affording students the opportunity to earn credits in advance.

Q. Does the Warrior Virtual Academy have any extracurricular or sports programs?

A. School sponsored extracurricular activities, including athletics, are available at this time. Students are encouraged to participate. Alabama High School Athletic Association requirements are applicable.

Q. Does the Warrior Virtual Academy offer a summer program?

A. The Warrior Virtual Academy operates a summer credit recovery/new credit/credit advancement program for students who wish to earn additional credits toward early graduation, to reduce their required course load or when placed on Academic Probation, the student attends to recover credit.

Q. What happens if a student fails a course?

A. Students who fall behind (less than 60% course average) will receive an Academic Warning Letter at the progress reporting period.

Students who continue to fall behind after receiving an Academic Warning Letter will then be subject to Academic Probation for a period of not less than one 9-week period.

If placed on Academic Probation, students will be required to:

- report to the RCSD Alternative Learning Program (ALP) site a minimum of two days per week
- receive weekly grade counseling from staff at the ALP
- receive tutoring assistance from staff at the ALP
- remain on probation until the next grading period

Students who do not achieve 60% average or higher at the end of the Academic Probation period will be re-enrolled in the home school.

Students who fail one class may elect to attend summer school at the home school. In this case, students/parents will be responsible for transportation to and from summer school. Students/Parents will be responsible for paying all required summer school fees.

Students must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA and remain on track for graduation to be permitted to continue enrollment in the Warrior Virtual Academy.

Q. What types of student support services are offered?

A. After officially registering for the academy, students/parents are required to participate in an orientation scheduled by the director to sign necessary agreements and forms. The orientation requires face-to-face activities for the online experiences. Guidance and Counseling sessions are required for academic and guidance counseling to include the development of a 4-year high school plan. Monitoring sessions will be held to ensure that student's progress is tracked and progress monitored each grading period. Exam proctoring is required two to three times a week in face-to-face sessions. State-mandated sessions are required at the approved state testing dates. Face-to-face tutoring services may be required for students placed on academic probation.

Q. What are the minimum requirements to remain enrolled in the Warrior Virtual Academy?

A. The student must continue to meet the requirements established to enroll as well as maintain an academic GPA of 2.0. Students may be placed on Academic Probation for only one grading period. Students who fail to improve after being placed on Academic Probation will be returned to the home school. In addition, students must remain in good standing with all policies and procedures pertaining to discipline, academics, attendance, and technology use.

Q. How do I apply for enrollment in the Warrior Virtual Academy?

A. Completed applications may be submitted via email (johnsonj@russellcsd.net), via fax (334) 855-0328, or via hand-delivery at Russell County High School's main office. Applications are available at www.myrscsd.org/domain/324.

Q. How will I know my application has been accepted?

A. Once your application is received, you will receive an acknowledgement email. At this time, your transcript or final report card will be reviewed and a determination will be made by the Warrior Virtual Academy Admission Committee via email within 10 school days of submitting an application.

Q. If my application is approved, what are the next steps?

A. Once your application is received by Warrior Virtual Academy, you will receive an acknowledgement email from the director. Once the WVA Committee convenes, an acceptance email will be sent to approved students and will provide the orientation date, time, and location. All required documentation must be submitted at the time of the face-to-face orientation to:

- discuss goals for graduation
- build a course schedule
- participate in a guidance counseling session on study skills, techniques, and other necessary topics
- navigate the course management system

Q. When are applications for enrollment accepted?

A. Applications for enrollment are accepted throughout the academic year and during summer registration. Acceptance into the Russell County Warrior Virtual Academy is determined by the WVA Committee based upon the policy requirements. Typically, it is best to start school at the beginning of a term. However, it is not required.

Q. How should I contact the Warrior Virtual Academy if I have more questions?

A. Mr. Jacob Johnson, Director may be reached using one of more of the following contact details:

- Site Location: 91 Poorhouse Road Seale, AL 36875
- Office Phone: (334) 408-4986
- Email: johnsonj@russellcsd.net
- Website: myrscsd.org/domain/324