

Russell County Public School

Warrior Virtual Academy Handbook



Dr. Lorenza Pharrams, Director
pharramsl@russellcsd.net
www.myRCSD.org
91 Poorhouse Road
Seale, Alabama 36875
344-408-4986 ext 79901

Vision: The vision of Russell County School District’s Warrior Virtual Academy is to inspire, empower, and educate learners in an engaging, student-centered, and nontraditional approach that meets the learner’s needs by using a prescribed and flexible individualized learner plan.

Purpose: The purpose of the Russell County School District Warrior Virtual Academy is to provide a challenging, engaging, online educational environment for a self-motivated and independent learner in a flexible setting.

Benefits: Warrior Virtual Academy offers:

- Instruction from Alabama-certified teachers
- Flexible and personalized instruction
- Early graduation option
- Accelerated pace program
- Academic and career coursework
- Rigorous expectations
- Minimal resources required

Curriculum: The Warrior Virtual Academy primarily uses ACCESS Distance Learning, a program administered by the Alabama State Department of Education, whereby all coursework is aligned to the Alabama Courses of Study. In some cases, other online software and locally developed courses taught by Russell County School teachers will be used to ensure all credit requirements for graduation are met.

Hours of Operation: The Warrior Virtual Academy operates on a traditional semester schedule in accordance with the Russell County School District’s academic student calendar. Most classes will be offered in a standard 50-minute period for a full year time frame. The traditional block format may be used in required situations only.

The starting and ending date of ACCESS classes (regardless of the format) will be determined by the Alabama State Department of Education and will be closely aligned to the Russell County School District’s academic student calendar.

Normal operating hours will be Monday – Friday from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.

Attendance: Warrior Virtual Academy students must attend class daily in accordance with the Russell County School District’s academic student calendar. Students fulfill attendance requirements when they log on and remain logged to the ACCESS website. **STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO LOG INTO EACH CLASS FOR A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES EACH DAY!** Students must actively participate and complete required assignments in a timely manner. Failure to abide by this virtual attendance policy will result in the withdrawal from the program and enrollment into the base school.

Requirements: 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 have a personal device (laptop, desktop, Chromebook, iPad, etc.)

- Must acquire and maintain consistent internet service (minimum 1.5 Mbs)
- Must have and overall 2.0 GPA in course 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
- If student is a previous virtual school student, must have a proven record of success
- Director grants the final approval based upon a myriad of academic factors

Testing Schedule: All tests (unit and term examinations) must be taken in the physical presence of a Russell County School District employee. 24-hour prior notification is required. Students must report to RCSD ALP, Seal Campus location to take these tests. **Set days for testing will be Tuesdays and Thursdays unless school is closed or holidays.** In special circumstances, additional days may be arranged and approved by the director. Devices will be provided on site for the purpose of testing.

Transportation is not provided; therefore students and/or parents must arrange for reliable and safe transportation according to the terms of the signed Warrior Virtual Academy Transportation Agreement. At this time, Warrior Virtual Academy does not allow for electronic proctoring.

Grades: Russell County School District's grading policy will be upheld at the Warrior Virtual Academy. When students finish coursework, documentation will be presented to the school registrar. The registrar will post final grades to the student's transcript and preserve a copy in the student's cumulative folder.

Progress Monitoring: Virtual Academy students are required to progress through courses at a rate comparable to that of a traditional class. Students are permitted and encouraged to work ahead.

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

Students who do not achieve 60% average or higher at the end of the first semester will be re-enrolled in the base school.

Students who fail one class may elect to attend summer credit recovery at the base 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 Virtual Academy.

Types of Diplomas: Russell County School District's Warrior Virtual Academy offers the standard Alabama High School Diploma ONLY. However, we do offer Advanced Placement courses which meet the standards of the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Curriculum.

Required Courses: Students are required to take at least six (6) credits per year. Four of the six credits must be core classes (math, English Language Arts, science, and social studies) unless the student accumulated more core credits than required for the student to remain on track for graduation. With the director's, principal's, and parent's permission, students may be allowed to earn additional credits per year.

Early Graduation: Students are permitted to accelerate their high school course completion progression. The Warrior Virtual Academy operates 12 months with fall, spring and summer terms. Students are allowed to take additional courses during the regular school year and summer months under the condition that they maintain the minimum pace across all currently enrolled courses. Summer School enrollment requires that the student/parent pay the required fees for participation. This is in accordance with the Credit Recovery/Credit Advancement/New Credit Handbook for Russell County School District.

Technology: Students/Parents must provide their own device and acquire and maintain their own internet access. On site, RCSD will provide devices for student use.

Transportation: Students/Parents must provide all transportation. All students participating in the Warrior Virtual Academy must sign and submit a Transportation Agreement. Licensed students may drive themselves to the Warrior Virtual Academy site for required times at 91 Poorhouse Road Seale, AL 36875. All other students must be driven by a parent/guardian.

State Assessments: All Warrior Virtual Academy students are required to take all state mandated assessments on site at 91 Poorhouse Road Seale, AL 36875 or other specified locations. All 10th grade students take the ACT Aspire in the spring term and all 11th grade students will take the ACT + Writing in the spring term. All 12th grade students will take the ACT WorkKeys when administered. When applicable, ACCESS testing is required for all English Learners (EL).

Extracurricular Activities: Students must meet the same extracurricular activity eligibility requirements as students enrolled in the traditional school program including, but not limited to, any applicable Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) requirements. Student residency for purposes of participating in extracurricular activities will be determined in accordance with applicable state law and AHSAA guidelines.