

POLICY

Definitions

“Electronic Course”

For purposes of this policy, “electronic course” means a course in which:

1. Instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet;
2. A student and teacher are in different locations for a majority of the student’s instructional period;
3. Most instructional activities take place in an online environment;
4. The online instructional activities are integral to the academic program;
5. Extensive communication between a student and a teacher and among students is emphasized; and
6. A student is not required to be located on the physical premises of Heritage Academy.

Education Code 30A.001(4).

Prohibition on Required Enrollment

Heritage Academy shall not require a student to enroll in an electronic course. Education Code 30A.107(d).

Student Eligibility

A student is eligible to enroll in a course provided through the Texas Virtual School Network (“TxVSN”) only if the student:

1. Is younger than 21 years of age or younger than 26 years of age and entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program under Education Code 42.003 on September 1 of the school year;
2. Has not graduated from high school; and
3. Is otherwise eligible to enroll in a Texas public school.

A student is eligible to enroll full-time in courses provided through the TxVSN only if the student:

1. Was enrolled in a Texas public school in the preceding school year; or
2. Has been placed in substitute care in Texas, regardless of whether the student was enrolled in a Texas public school in the preceding school year.

Exception for Military Dependents

A student is eligible to enroll in one or more courses provided through the TxVSN or enroll full-time in courses provided through the network if the student:

1. Is a dependent of a member of the United States military;
2. Was previously enrolled in high school in Texas; and
3. Does not reside in this state due to a military deployment or transfer.

Education Code 30A.002.

Enrolled Students

A student who is enrolled in Heritage Academy as a full-time student may take one or more electronic courses through the TxVSN. Education Code 30A.107(b).

Unenrolled Students

A student who resides in Texas but is not enrolled in Heritage Academy as a full-time student may, subject to Education Code 30A.155, enroll in electronic courses through the TxVSN. The student:

1. May not in any semester enroll in more than two electronic courses offered through the TxVSN;
2. Is not considered to be a public school student;
3. Must obtain access to a course provided through the network through the school district or open-enrollment charter school attendance zone in which the student resides;
4. Is not entitled to enroll in a course offered by a school district or open-enrollment charter school other than an electronic course provided through the network; and
5. Is not entitled to any right, privilege, activities, or services available to a student enrolled in a public school, other than the right to receive the appropriate unit of credit for completing an electronic course.

Education Code 30A.107(c).

Student Participation in the TxVSN

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for students to enroll in courses provided by the TxVSN.

Enrollment in courses through the TxVSN shall not be subject to limitations Heritage Academy may impose for other distance learning courses.

Notice

At the time and in the manner that Heritage Academy informs students and parents about courses that are offered in Heritage Academy' traditional classroom setting, Heritage Academy shall notify parents and students of the option to enroll in an electronic course offered through the TxVSN.

Requests to Enroll

Except as provided below, Heritage Academy may not deny the request of a parent of a full-time student to enroll the student in an electronic course offered through the TxVSN.

Heritage Academy may deny a request to enroll a student in an electronic course if:

1. A student attempts to enroll in a course load that is inconsistent with the student's high school graduation plan or requirements for college admission or earning an industry certification;
2. The student requests permission to enroll in an electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the enrollment period established by the course provider; or
3. Heritage Academy offers a substantially similar course.

The course provider shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the enrollment of a student in the course under special circumstances.

If a parent of a student requests permission to enroll the student in a TxVSN course, Heritage Academy has discretion to select a course provider approved by TEA for the course in which the student will enroll based on factors including the informed choice report required by Education Code 30A.108(b).

Students with Disabilities

The determination of whether or not an electronic course will meet the needs of a student with a disability shall be made by the student's admission, review, and dismissal ("ARD") committee in a manner consistent with state and federal law, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Appeals

A parent may appeal to the Commissioner Heritage Academy's decision to deny a request to enroll a student in an electronic course offered through the TxVSN. The Commissioner's decision is final and may not be appealed.

Education Code 26.0031, 30A.007.

Required Enrollment Prohibited

Heritage Academy may not require a student to enroll in an electronic course. Education Code 30A.107(d).

Electronic Course Portability

A student who transfers from one educational setting to another after beginning enrollment in an electronic course is entitled to continue enrollment in the course. Education Code 30A.1051.

Student Assessment

All Texas public school students enrolled in the TxVSN are required to take the statewide assessments as required in Education Code 39.023. The administration of the assessment instrument to the student enrolled in the electronic course must be supervised by a proctor.

Heritage Academy shall report to the Commissioner through the Public Education Information Management System (“PEIMS”) the results of assessment instruments administered to students enrolled in an electronic course offered through the TxVSN separately from the results of assessment instruments administered to other students. Education Code 30A.110.

Fees

Heritage Academy may charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the TxVSN to a student who resides in Texas and:

1. Is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with a course load greater than that normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level in other public schools; or
2. Elects to enroll in a TxVSN course for which Heritage Academy declines to pay the cost as authorized by Education Code 26.0031(c-1).

Heritage Academy may charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the TxVSN during the summer.

Heritage Academy shall charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the TxVSN to a student who resides in Texas and is not enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student.

A TxVSN course cost may not exceed the lesser of the cost of providing the course or \$400.

If Heritage Academy is not the provider school, Heritage Academy may charge a student enrolled in Heritage Academy a nominal fee, not to exceed the amount specified by the Commissioner, if the student enrolls in an electronic course provided through the TxVSN that exceeds the course load normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level. Education Code 30A.155.

Heritage Academy may decline to pay the course costs for a student who chooses to enroll in more than three year-long electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any

school year. This does not limit the ability of the student to enroll in additional electronic courses offered through the TxVSN at the student's expense.

Heritage Academy, if it is not the course provider, may charge a student enrolled in Heritage Academy a nominal fee, not to exceed \$50, if the student enrolls in a TxVSN course that exceeds the course load normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level.

Education Code 30A.155(a)–(c-1).

Provision of Computer Equipment and Internet Service

This policy does not:

1. Require Heritage Academy to provide a student with home computer equipment or Internet access for a course provided through the TxVSN; or
2. Prohibit Heritage Academy from providing a student with home computer equipment or Internet access for a course provided through the TxVSN.

Education Code 30A.003.

Applicability

This policy does not affect the provision of a course to a student while the student is located on the physical premises of Heritage Academy, unless Heritage Academy chooses to participate in providing an electronic course or an electronic diagnostic assessment under Education Code Chapter 30A to a student who is located on the physical premises of Heritage Academy.

This policy does not apply to a virtual course provided by Heritage Academy only to students enrolled in Heritage Academy if the course is not provided as part of the TxVSN. Education Code 30A.004.

Heritage Academy as Provider

Heritage Academy is eligible to act as a course provider only if Heritage Academy is rated acceptable under Education Code 39.054. Additionally, Heritage Academy may serve as a course provider only:

1. To a student within its service area; or
2. To another student in the state:
 - a. Through an agreement with the school district in which the student resides; or
 - b. If the student receives educational services under the supervision of a juvenile probation department, the Texas Youth Commission, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, through an agreement with the applicable agency.

Education Code 30A.101(a).

Contracts with Virtual School Service Providers

Each contract between Heritage Academy and an administering authority (as that term is defined by Education Code 30A.001(1)) must:

1. Provide that the administering authority may cancel the contract without penalty if legislative authorization for Heritage Academy through the TxVSN is revoked; and
2. Be submitted to the Commissioner.

A contract submitted under this provision is public information for purposes of Chapter 552, Government Code. Education Code 30A.056.

Applicability

Unless Heritage Academy chooses to participate in providing an electronic course or an electronic diagnostic assessment under Education Code Chapter 30A to a student who is located on the physical premises of Heritage Academy, Education Code Chapter 30A does not affect the provision of a course to such a student. Requirements imposed by or under Education Code Chapter 30A do not apply to a virtual course provided by a district only to Heritage Academy students if the course is not provided as part of the TxVSN. Education Code 30A.004