

Online Courses for Acceleration in MISD

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Who do I contact if I want to sign my child up for an online class for acceleration?*

Contact your student's counselor on the campus they are currently attending. They can give you the information and register your student after tuition is paid.

2. *How much does an online class cost?*

Online courses for students who are on track to graduate with their cohort (not credit deficient) cost 220.00 per semester. (50.00 For students on free and reduced lunch.)

3. *Why do I have to pay for my child to take a class that is required for him/her to graduate from high school?*

Online courses are not mandatory for any student. Students have the option to take a class for acceleration (gain credit early) for a course. All of the online acceleration courses can be taken in a face to face setting during the course of a regular school year or summer school.

4. *Why is the online course semester starting later than the regular school year semester? Isn't this putting my child behind?*

Online courses generally start after a regular school semester because of logistics for training, and finalizing the online class grades from the previous semester, in this case the Winter Minimester that ended a week ago. Students in online classes have 24/7 access for 127 days. Online students actually have more time to finish their course than face to face students.

5. *What if my child finishes his course before the end date? Will he have to wait until the end of the semester to take his final exam in order to get the credit?*

No. Once your child has completed the course online, he or she should ask the teacher of record to unlock the final exam to take immediately. The final exam can only be unlocked by the teacher of record for the class, however.

6. *How does my child communicate to his teacher in online course?*

All communication in online course work is done through a communication portal in the Apex system. All email from students goes directly to the teacher's MISD email address. There is no need for a student to have a personal email account in order to take courses online.

7. *Do I need to have a fax machine or a scanner to send my child's assignments to his teacher?*

There is no need for any ancillary technology equipment for these courses. Students attach their assignments to emails just like they would in a regular email system.

8. *What kind of computer can we use to access online courses? Is there special software or equipment needed?*

Online courses can be accessed via the Internet using both Mac and PC platforms. There are some necessary plug-ins that you might need, however. Once you login for the first time there is a link for a "system checkup" This option will check your computer for any needed plug-ins and help you to install them. Our online course system, does not work compatibly with iPads at this time.

9. *How does my child know how to login to the online course system?*

Once your student attends an orientation session, he/she will be given the link to the site along with a username and password for accessing it.

10. *How can I be made aware of my student's progress in this course? Will it be listed in Home Access Center with the rest of his classes and grades?*

Parents will not see online courses listed in HAC, however, they can have a weekly report sent to any number of email addresses listing their student's progress in the class. This report is called a Coach Report and can be set up by contacting your child's teacher?

11. Who is my child’s teacher for this course?

All of the teachers for online courses are employees of McKinney ISD. Below is a listing by course of the teacher’s name and email address:

Health	Darla Sessom	dsessom@mckinneyisd.net
Psychology	David Weintraub	dweintraub@mckinneyisd.net
Sociology	David Weintraub	dweintraub@mckinneyisd.net
English IV-A and B	Dolly Smith	dsmith@mckinneyisd.net
US Government	Patti Hayes	phayes@mckinneyisd.net
Economics	Patti Hayes	phayes@mckinneyisd.net
MISD Instructional Technology	Lara Lindsey	llindsey@mckinneyisd.net

12. How long should it take for my student to complete his/her course?

The length of time it takes to complete a class is dependent on multiple variables. The kind of student the child is, their reading ability, and class content are a few examples. Most students are able to finish the class within the timeframe set up, and most complete long before the end date. The system is set up with a pacing guide to help you and your student know how much more work is left to do and how much time is left to get it done.

13. Are there required meeting times that my student should be aware of prior to signing up for online course work?

Other than the hour long orientation for online learning, there are no mandatory class meeting times. This class is self paced with the understanding that all course work is completed by May 18. This includes the final exam and the research paper for English IV-B.

14. How will my student’s grade be reflected on his high school transcript?

At the end of each online semester, grades are sent to the high school registrar’s office to be transcribed. Your child will receive a number grade on his/her transcript; however this grade does not count toward GPA.

15. What if my child starts his class, but doesn't finish? Will this be reflected as a failing grade on his transcript? Can I get my money back or can he start over where he left off in the next online semester?

Students who do not complete their course are not given a failing grade on their transcript. It will just not be listed. It will be as though he/she never took the class. That being said, the tuition is non-refundable and no-transferable to another semester. Some exceptions can be made on a case by case basis.

16. What do I do if my child or I need help or have questions about the online course system? Who should I call?

Your first contact with any question should be the teacher of record, then the office of instructional technology (Lara Lindsey 469-742-4085 llindsey@mckinneyisd.net). You can also contact Apex Learning support with technical questions at (800) 453-1454 or support@apexlearning.com. Apex support cannot answer content specific questions, unlock tests, or work with your child in any way as it pertains to class work.