

# Frequently Asked Questions for Families



## General Information

### **Q: What is the difference between NTI 2DL and The Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** The Virtual Learning Academy is a separate online learning program designed for that small number of families who – for reasons related to their child’s health or the health of others in their household – do not want to return to in-person instruction at all. NTI 2DL is an alternative to traditional in-person on campus instruction employed to continue teaching and learning when schools or school districts cannot be open due to circumstances like inclement weather or widespread illness.

### **Q: What is the schedule for the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** It follows the same calendar as the district and has set hours for students to attend online meetings and participate in virtual classes. The daily time commitment is comparable to in-school instructional time.

### **Q: If my child is in the Virtual Learning Academy to start the school year, can they switch to NTI 2DL later?**

**A:** It is critical that families understand this is a semester-long commitment to online instruction. Changes can only be made at semester breaks.

### **Q: Will there be live instruction in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** FCPS teachers will provide instruction, assignments, and grades. Teachers could be those who cannot return to in-person learning for health reasons, part-time certified teachers hired specifically for the FCPS Virtual Learning Academy, or teachers who work in other FCPS schools full-time but agree to take on the additional responsibility to teach a course for students in the FCPS VLA. Student progress will be monitored and teachers will provide regular feedback. Elementary aged students will require the support of an adult in the household to ensure success.

### **Q: What will the curriculum be in the FCPS Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** The curriculum is internet-based and students work at their own pace through lessons and modules of each course. The curriculum will meet the Kentucky Academic Standards, however, the program will not have the wide variety of course offerings and specialized programs available at other FCPS schools. Dual credit classes, language immersion, technical center experiences, International Baccalaureate courses, and specialized art and music instruction will not be available.

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**Q: If my child enrolls in the Virtual Learning Academy, can he or she still participate in extra-curricular activities?**

**A:** Students enrolled in the FCPS Virtual Learning Academy will be eligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities at the school where they are currently enrolled for the 2020-21 school year. This does not apply to co-curricular activities, such as Band, FFA, co-ops, etc.

**Q: I am new to online learning, how can FCPS help with the transition?**

**A:** We will host orientation sessions that will give families an opportunity to learn more about VLA and ask questions. Additionally, the district will provide students with 1:1 Chromebooks to ensure students have the tools they need to succeed online.

**Q: How can I enroll my child in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** Enrollment will be open first to those families who indicated on the reopening survey that they were interested in a virtual only option for their children and gave us their contact information. Once those families have decided whether to accept placement in the virtual academy, we may have space to offer other families. Since all students are starting the year with NTI 2DL, we expect a seamless transition to the virtual academy for those families with individual circumstances that preclude being able to return to in-person instruction.

**Q: Will attending the Virtual Learning Academy impact my student's magnet or special program status for 2021-22?**

**A:** No, students who are currently enrolled in a magnet school or special program and choose to attend the Virtual Learning Academy during the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to return back to their magnet school or special program at a semester break.

**Q: Can my student take a course in the Virtual Learning Academy that is not offered at their current school?**

**A:** This option will not be available during the 2020-21 school year. Families should talk with their student's guidance counselor about how to access courses that are not taught at their school.

**Q: My child has a 504 plan and requires accommodations. How will this be addressed?**

**A:** Section 504 accommodations will be provided as determined in the student's individual 504 plan. 504 Teams will meet to address any concerns or consider necessary changes to address access and accommodations needed.

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**Q: My child is eligible to receive special education services. How should I determine if this is an appropriate option for my child?**

**A:** Each student with an Individual Education Program (IEP) has unique needs so decisions for each student will be made by the Admission and Release Committee (ARC) team. We have a responsibility to provide each student with a free appropriate public education that enables them to make progress toward their individual goals in light of their circumstances. As a family, if you need to choose this option because of risk factors for your child or a family member due to the global pandemic and current state of emergency, the ARC will consider that as part of your child's circumstances in determining the appropriate services needed for them in the online learning environment. Progress monitoring data will be collected on a regular basis. As data is collected, individual decisions will be made by the ARC to determine any changes to the plan or alternatives for delivering the services needed.

**Q: My child has a Program Service Plan (PSP) for English Learners or a Gifted Student Service Plan (GSSP). Will services continue?**

**A:** Students receiving EL and GT services will have support from an EL or GT endorsed teacher. Implementation of the PSP or GSSP will continue through differentiated, modified, or supplemental instruction.

**Q: My child is a senior. How will enrolling in the Virtual Learning Academy impact graduation?**

**A:** Students will be able to complete their graduation requirements through the Virtual Learning Academy and will receive their diploma from the high school where they are currently enrolled.

**Q: How will enrolling in the Virtual Learning Academy impact my child's career and technical coursework?**

**A:** We will not be able to offer career and technical experiences through the Virtual Learning Academy.

**Q: What is the daily time commitment in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** Students will be expected to spend at least four hours a day logged into the Virtual Learning Academy. This does not include projects or homework assignments completed offline.

**Q: What type of assignments will students complete in the Virtual Learning Academy?**

**A:** Assignments will be media-rich, and engage the student through lessons, projects, quizzes, and tests. Lessons could include vocabulary games, interactive labs, videos, and text. Each assignment is designed for skill building and mastery of standards.

**Q: Who can I contact should I have additional questions?**

**A:** Please email [special.programs@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:special.programs@fayette.kyschools.us) or call 381-4741.