

***Garrard County Schools***  
***Proposal for Garrard County Virtual Academy***

The purpose of the Garrard County Virtual Academy will be to offer a rigorous and comprehensive educational opportunity for students in a virtual setting. A 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum will be in place to ensure students are challenged academically. An emphasis on Social and Emotional Learning will ensure the students feel supported and nurtured. Students will have the opportunity to explore a career pathway with a hybrid schedule where opportunities exist to be enrolled in courses at the Garrard County Area Technology Center and dual credit offerings at Garrard County High School. The Garrard County Virtual Academy will collaborate with industry partners to create apprenticeship opportunities where students will have the opportunity to gain meaningful workplace related experience when possible.

The initial targeted group will be homeschool students in Garrard County. Currently, Garrard County has 229 homeschool students. Our goal will be to enroll 50 homeschool students into the academy within the first year. The secondary groups that will be targeted include students who have significant medical issues that prohibit in-person learning, and students and parents who have requested enrollment in the academy. A formal application process will be developed with specific guidelines for enrollment and continuation in the academy.

The Garrard County Virtual Academy will be directed by the Director of Pupil Personnel. The academy will have dedicated staff members to assist the students with instructional and social/emotional learning needs. Weekly check-ins will be utilized to ensure the students have contact with a caring adult advocate and will ensure the students receive the necessary academic support.

Garrard County Schools is working with the Kentucky Educational Development Cooperation (KEDC) to connect with districts currently utilizing a virtual academy. Meetings have been held with Anderson County and Harrison County as well as a round-table virtual meeting with Barren County, Rowan County, and Johnson County. KDE was a participant in the round-table session.

Questions remaining to be answered are:

- What is the KDE funding mechanism?
- What does “attendance” look like?
- Does the academy require the creation of a new school number?
- Can the academy reach below 5<sup>th</sup> grade?
- What is the staffing pattern?