



Bourbon County Schools Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)

The following information is provided to help families understand the purpose, format, criteria, and expectations for the Bourbon County Virtual Learning Academy.

PURPOSE

The Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) was originally developed in response to the needs of the pandemic. During the 2025-2026 school year, we will continue to offer a virtual learning option for our students and families. The purpose is to provide a different type of learning opportunity for students who thrive in a self-guided, virtual learning environment.

The Virtual Learning Academy allows students to work under the guidance of a virtual teacher on both synchronous and asynchronous platforms. Students in VLA will utilize an online learning platform with individual pacing guides and programming facilitated by a virtual teacher. Virtual students will be required to attend and participate in classes as outlined in their individual programs. Additional asynchronous homework, activities, and lessons will also be assigned. Access to a live teacher is available daily to meet student needs.

FORMAT

- Online learning platform with both synchronous and asynchronous instruction
- Daily participation required based on individual pacing and program requirements
- Asynchronous assignments, homework, and projects required
- Live teacher support available daily

ENROLLMENT AND APPLICATION PROCESS

- Enrollment is limited and selective based on criteria below
- Application window: **March 30 through two weeks after the start of school**
- Late applications considered at administrative discretion
- Families must:
 - Submit a separate application per student
 - Commit to at least **one semester**
 - Participate in onboarding if accepted
- A committee of teachers, counselors, and administrators will review applications



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ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- No more than 6 unexcused absences in the prior school year
- Students not meeting GPA/attendance must submit a **medical exemption** (subject to review)
- Reliable **high-speed internet access** required; devices may be provided, but not internet service
- Admission to VLA is contingent upon class size and exemptions established in KRS 157.360 and 702 KAR 3.190

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must:

- Adhere to the Bourbon County Schools attendance policy
- Participate in **state and district testing**
- Check email and Google Classroom **multiple times daily**
- Stay on pace in all courses and maintain passing grades
 - Minimum: BCMS – 64%, BCHS – 60%
- Complete instructional content before assessments, including:
 - Readings, study guides, practice tests, notes, etc.
- Submit requests for quizzes/tests resets directly to teachers
- Take each quiz/test up to **four attempts**; after two failed attempts, contact teacher
- Participate in both synchronous and asynchronous learning as outlined by the program.
- Maintain behavior and academic expectations or return to in-person learning

SUPPORT & MONITORING

- **Weekly progress reports** sent to families and school personnel
- Students not meeting academic or participation expectations may be removed
- Parents/guardians must provide a distraction-free learning space at home

VLA students follow the **same curriculum** and graduation requirements as in-person peers

- **BCMS students** must enroll full-time in virtual; **BCHS students** may have hybrid schedules for CTE/vocational classes
- VLA students may participate in **extracurricular activities** at their home school



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- Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) will be developed and maintained for all VLA students
- Program continuation or return to in-person learning will follow a clear policy, including mid-term progress checks and administrative decisions on retention

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/704/003/535/>