VIRTUAL PROGRAM AT THE OPPORTUNITY ACADEMIES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Program Overview	
What is the virtual learning program at the Opportunity Academies?	The virtual learning program at the Opportunity Academies (Luke C. Moore, Ballou STAY, and Roosevelt STAY) is a targeted virtual option available to high-school students only on a first come, first served basis. DC resident students in 9-12th grade are eligible to apply to participate in the program. To participate, students will enroll in one of the Opportunity Academies. You can learn more about the Opportunity Academies here: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/opportunityacademy. Please keep in mind that while Opportunity Academies traditionally serve students 16-years-old or older, this virtual program is open to students beginning in 9th grade.
Who is eligible for the virtual learning program?	DC resident students in 9-12th grade will be eligible to apply to participate in the program. There are a limited number of seats for the program, so seats will be offered on a first come, first served basis.
How is this program different from the programs already offered at the Opportunity Academies?	The virtual program at the Opportunity Academies is similar to the programs currently offered at the Opportunity Academies. The distinct differences are that the mode of instruction is entirely virtual and the program can accommodate students as young as 9th grade. Aside from this, the curriculum and instructors are consistent between the virtual program and the in-person program.
Is this program different than the virtual program offered to students last school year?	Yes. This program is different in a few specific ways: - The virtual program from SY21-22 was limited to students with COVID-specific medical needs. This year, the virtual program will be an option for students in grades 9-12 regardless of any medical needs. - Students who want to participate in the OA virtual program must enroll in one of the Opportunity Academies. (In SY21-22, students maintained their enrollment in their school of record.) - This program is limited to grades 9-12.
Who will be teaching the virtual courses?	Opportunity Academy teachers will be providing virtual instruction to students in the Opportunity Academy Virtual program.

My child is in a dual-language program, Montessori program, or specialized high school. Will the virtual program provide these options?	DCPS offers a rich learning environment for students participating in virtual learning, but we cannot guarantee access to all courses or programs. However, virtual students in grades 9-12 will have access to all courses required for graduation.
My child currently receives additional supports as a part of their IEP or 504 plan, or as a part of their provided EL services. Will the virtual program provide these services?	DCPS Opportunity Academies offer a continuum of special education (SPED) services for students with disabilities in compliance with IDEA requirements. Opportunity Academies commit to complying with IDEA requirements to meet the needs of virtual students with IEPs/504s and virtual students receiving ELL services. High school Opportunity Academy students requiring special education programming and/or EL services can be accommodated within the virtual program at the Opportunity Academies. The Student Placement Office, in partnership with the Division of Specialized Instruction, will work with each family to ensure service needs are accommodated during school placements. Only students pursuing a standard diploma qualify for the virtual program. The virtual program does not accommodate certificated pathways.
Will this program lead to a specialized diploma for my high school student?	The virtual program at the Opportunity Academy will ensure a student has access to any courses required for a standard high school diploma. The virtual program at the Opportunity Academies does not include certificated programs.
Is my student at any point forced to attend the virtual learning program?	No. All DCPS students maintain a right to attend their neighborhood DCPS high school. Students are not required to enroll or maintain their enrollment at the virtual program and may opt to remain or return to their neighborhood DCPS high school at any point.

Enrollment & Admissions	
How do I express interest for my student to enroll in the Opportunity Academy virtual program?	To express interest in the program, a family should contact the Student Placement Office at student.placement@k12.dc.gov or (202) 939-2004.

How will students be selected for admission to the virtual program at the Opportunity Academies	Students will be selected on a first come, first served basis. There are a limited number of seats available. Students must be entering 9th-12th grades in SY 22-23 to be eligible to participate in the program for this school year.
When and how will I be notified about my student's acceptance to the virtual program at the Opportunity Academies?	Families will be notified via letter of acceptance. This will be mailed and/or emailed to families.
When registering my student for the virtual program, does that mean they are now enrolled at the Opportunity Academy?	Yes. Students who accept admission will enroll in one of the three Opportunity Academies as their school of record.
What if I register for virtual learning but then I change my mind?	If a student changes their mind mid-year, they have the option to switch to an in-person schedule at the Opportunity Academy they are enrolled in if they are at least 16-years-old. Additionally, all students always have the option to attend their neighborhood DCPS high school.
If I decide to withdraw my student from the virtual learning program, does this impact any out-of-boundary school rights my student previously had before?	Yes. By enrolling in the virtual program at the Opportunity Academy, that student no longer retains their previously held out-of-boundary school rights. If students wish to withdraw from the Opportunity Academy, they may enroll in their neighborhood DCPS high school.
If my child withdraws from the virtual program and transfers to a different school, how will their credits/credit time be transferred?	Students who withdraw from the Opportunity Academies prior to the close of the 22-23 school year, or students who transfer into the virtual program within the school year, will work with their school of record when determining how credits/course hours will transfer. Please note that while schools will do their best to ensure students credits transfer without issue, credit for work completed may not equate to credit earned at their previous/next school placement.
What if I desire for my child to transfer from the virtual option to the in-person learning option at the Opportunity Academies?	The in-person program at the Opportunity Academies is limited to students 16 and older. To do so, students must notify their Opportunity Academy Assistant Principal.

Can my child attend in-person part of the time, and virtual part of the time?	No. The virtual program at the Opportunity Academies is a routine distance learning option, which means it is an entirely virtual learning program (with a few exceptions related to in-person requirements for on-site state testing). This is not a hybrid model.
If my student qualifies for a safety transfer, would the virtual program be an option?	Yes. The virtual program is designed to accommodate students who require or qualify for a safety transfer. If this applies to you, please reach out to the School Placement Office.

Daily Schedule and Course Offerings	
What will the school day schedule look like for my student? What are the school-day hours?	School hours are from 9:00am-3:15pm with an after-school option from 3:45pm-5:20pm. Classes are taught through live, synchronous instruction. Wednesdays are asynchronous.
What courses are provided through the virtual learning program? Will my student have access to all courses necessary for graduation?	Virtual students in grades 9-12 will have access to all courses required for graduation.
Are there any in-person requirements for virtual students?	Some assessments will occur on site and in-person. More details will be provided at a later date according to your student's schedule and course enrollment. All other in-person activities may be offered to virtual students but will be optional.

Attendance Requirements	
What is the attendance policy for virtual students?	Virtual students should plan for 6-hours of *synchronous* coursework each school day. A synchronous course is one that occurs at a specified time and is live-taught by an instructor online. To be considered present in a synchronous module, students must be visually present (camera on) during synchronous instruction. Students will be expected to log on during the specified class time with cameras on and remain engaged

Students who fail to meet attendance requirements will be referred for additional interventions. Students 16-years-old or above who demonstrate chronic absenteeism may be required to attend the Opportunity Academies in-person.

Extracurricular Activities	
Can my student participate in extracurricular activities as a virtual student?	Yes. Virtual students may participate in sports offered at the Opportunity Academies if they meet the academic, age, and attendance eligibility requirements. Students may also participate in sports at any school if the sport is not offered at the Opportunity Academy or if they do not meet the age eligibility requirement. A student must be at least 16 years old and no older than 22 years old on August 1st of the relevant school year to meet the age eligibility requirement for sports offered through the Opportunity Academies.
What extracurricular activities are available at the Opportunity Academies?	Sports offerings for the Opportunity Academies include basketball (spring), co-ed bowling (winter), and outdoor track (spring). Other extracurricular programs offered at the Opportunity Academies: - At Luke C. Moore: Skiing *Students may reach out to their Opportunity Academy directly to inquire about additional extracurricular program offerings.*
What if the sport my student wants to participate in is not offered at the Opportunity Academies?	Ninth (9th), tenth (10th), eleventh (11th), and twelfth (12th) graders who attend high schools in which a particular sport is not offered may request authorization to participate at any other DCPS high school offering that sport if the following conditions are met: - The student meets the eligibility requirements of the District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) and/or school. - A school is selected by the parent or guardian and agreed upon by the sending and receiving school. Parties at both schools must complete a manual Certification of Eligibility form and submit it to the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) for review. Once the form has been reviewed, the student will be added to the roster by a DCIAA staff member.

Materials and Meals Access	
How do I obtain the necessary technology and materials for my student?	Students may pick up necessary technology from the Opportunity Academy they are enrolled in. To receive technology materials or ask about pick-up times/locations, please contact your Opportunity Academy directly.
What if I want to register for virtual but I do not have a device or internet for my child at home?	We are committed to providing all students enrolled in virtual learning with the tools to participate fully, including a technology device or internet access support. If you need a device or internet, please contact your Opportunity Academy directly.
How will virtual students access breakfast and lunch?	Virtual students will have the option to visit a local production kitchen school (there is 1 per ward) and pick up bulk meals on Tuesday's and Friday's. Production kitchens are listed below: <table><tr><th>School Name</th><th>Ward</th></tr><tr><td>Columbia Heights EC</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Hardy MS</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Jackson-Reed HS</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Roosevelt HS</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Dunbar HS</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Jefferson MS</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Eastern HS</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Ballou HS</td><td>8</td></tr></table> Students will need to pre-register with their OAs on a weekly basis to properly plan and prevent meal waste as well as ensure staff at those schools are prepared for virtual students to come pick up meals.

Supporting my Student	
Where can I access information regarding my student's grades and attendance while enrolled in the program?	Families can review assignment grades and daily attendance in Aspen through the Parent Portal.
What if my student needs extra support? Are there any tutoring supports available?	Teachers will host office hours that students can attend if additional support is needed/requested.

Other	
Can current Opportunity Academy students participate in the virtual program?	Yes. Contact your Assistant Principal/POC at your Opportunity Academy to discuss program options for your student.
What are the behavior and conduct policies?	Schools engaged in routine distance learning must fully comply with discipline requirements as outlined by the school's code of conduct. This includes meeting attendance and engagement expectations.