

Frequently Asked Questions for R7VA (Virtual Academy)

If I missed the deadline for pre-registration (August 2), can my student still enroll in Virtual Academy? This question will be answered on a case by case basis. Please contact Dr. Tammy Williams, Washington County School Division at 276-739-3000.

Can I enroll my student in the Virtual Academy later in the year, if circumstances change and I find it necessary for health reasons?

For the most effective instructional support, it is recommended that students apply for the Virtual Academy at natural breaks in grading periods, but applications will be considered throughout the year. These decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

Can I return to in-person learning at my student's school at any point during the school year?

Yes, it is recommended for ease of transition into classes that changes occur at the end of a grading period; however, it can occur at any point in the year. Please note, if that occurs, the student cannot re-enroll in the Virtual Academy for the same school year.

What curriculum will be used and will it be aligned with Washington County Public Schools' curriculum?

Washington County Schools has partnered with VAVA powered by Stride, K12 (<https://www.k12.com/parent-student-resources.html>) to provide virtual instruction this year. VAVA has been working with Virginia students in the virtual setting for over ten years - therefore, content and curriculum is Virginia-specific (following VDOE requirements) and taught by VA-licensed teachers. VAVA is run much like a brick and mortar school.

What will classes look like for my student?

Stride, K12 offers a full synchronous class schedule with asynchronous school work throughout the school day following a master schedule created by their administrators. Each class (based on grade level) can be different, but a schedule will be set up based on the student's class schedule. Once set for the grading period, that schedule must be followed for the student to be considered active.

What is the student/teacher ratio for the program? This will vary by year or grading period but will not exceed the standards set out by the Virginia

Department of Education. STRIDE, K12 will meet all Virginia standards for appropriate grade level instruction.

How do I enroll?

You will need to ensure your child is enrolled with the school division in which you live. Once enrolled, complete the Pre-Registration survey. Once eligibility is determined, you will receive a letter communicating whether or not your child qualifies for the program. If approved, information from Stride will be sent to the email address on file within 1-2 weeks.

Will teachers from my school be teaching my online classes?

No, courses are taught by Virginia-licensed teachers outside of your school division.

My student is identified (IEP, 504, Gifted, ELL, etc). How will he or she be served in this setting?

Click the link below for information regarding special programs.

[Stride, K12 Special Programs](#)

If I was homeschooled in the past, can I participate?

Yes. You simply need to notify your school division of your residence that you would like to enroll in the Academy. This option eliminates the need to complete homeschool paperwork, as students in R7VA are enrolled directly with their school district.

Can I play sports for my division if I participate in the Academy?

Washington County Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy may participate in any VHSL sports or other extra-curricular activity offered in the school by contacting their home school

Do I need to have my own computer?

The school of your residence can provide a device if needed.

How will I take my Standard of Learning (SOL) test?

If you are enrolled in a course that requires a SOL test, you will complete that test at your school of residence. Your school will notify you of specific information for

completion closer to test day. Visit the VDOE website for more information on SOL courses: <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/index.shtml>

Do I have to have internet access?

Yes, reliable internet access is required.

What is the attendance policy?

The *Code of Virginia's* policy on educational attendance (§22.1-254) applies for online learning and compulsory school attendance is *required by law*. In the virtual learning environment established by the Region VII Virtual Academy, attendance is defined as:

- Completing all online assignments for each course of study within the due dates
- Participating in required synchronous learning opportunities made available by your instruction provider
- Submitting assignments appropriately through identified Learning Management System within the due dates
- Reaching out to teachers as necessary regarding questions or concerns with class expectations

The following reasons are considered **excused** absences:

- ILLNESS - Requires parent, guardian or doctor explanation
- DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY
- RECOGNIZED RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS OR EVENTS
- REQUIRED COURT APPEARANCE
- APPROVED SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES
- EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Excused absences need to be communicated with online teachers.

Unexcused Absences

After five (5) unexcused absences, the Region VII Virtual Academy Executive Director will communicate with the family to obtain a record of explanation regarding unexcused absences. A formal letter will be sent to the parent or guardian reminding them of the importance of good attendance and restating expectations defined in this document.

After seven (7) unexcused absences, the Executive Director will contact the family to set up a formal attendance meeting with the student, and parent or guardian to develop a written plan and take action. A record of the meeting will be maintained. If the parent or guardian refuses to attend or is uncooperative, the Executive Director may request the student return to in-person learning environment at that time. All

documentation regarding attendance in the virtual setting will be shared with school official(s).

In the event of another unexcused absence, the student will no longer be allowed to participate in the Region VII Virtual Academy. Following formal notification to the family, the student will return to in-person learning within the student's division of residence. All documentation regarding attendance will be shared with school official(s). The school authority (principal or designee) reserves the right to enforce the compulsory attendance policy by referring the case to the division designee for possible charges in Juvenile Court when appropriate per §22.1-258.

I have difficulty accessing my classes. Who do I contact?

You can email kkazmi@cip.education or contact your division's provider directly.
Stride, K12: 1-866-512-2273

Is the Virtual Academy, powered by Stride, K12 different than homeschool?

K12 provides options for home-based education, but not all of those options are the same as traditional homeschooling where parents choose curriculum and hold primary responsibility for instructing their children. K12 offers a wide array of homeschooling curriculum for purchase, but also offer full-time, teacher supported education options, such as K12-powered, tuition-free public schools, which share the same requirements and benefits of brick-and-mortar public schools.

Do I need to purchase textbooks and materials when I enroll my child?

When you enroll in a K12-powered public school program, the materials your student needs to complete each course are shipped directly to your home. Some of these materials, such as textbooks, need to be returned at the end of the year. K12 supplies pre-paid shipping labels as needed for families to return school supplies. Common household supplies, like computer ink and paper, are not provided.

I'm enrolled, now what do I do?

Once you receive your letter of acceptance, you do not need to do anything else until you receive your email from Stride, K12 giving you directions on how to log in and get

started. It is NOT necessary to go to the Stride, K12 website and try to register. WCPS will take care of the registration process.