

ONLINE INSTRUCTION: COURSES FOR STUDENTS

Approved online courses will be made available to secondary students (grades 8 through 12) when available and integrated in the respective school's Course of Study.

Approved online courses may be provided by an outside vendor or created by Wareham Public School educators.

All online courses are required to meet the following criteria for approval:

1. **Content.** The course(s) provide online learners with engaging and challenging learning experiences that promote their mastery of content and are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and any other appropriate approved standards both in content and measurable objectives.
2. **Instructional Design.** The course(s) use learning activities that engage students in active learning; provide students with multiple learning paths to master the content based on students' needs; reflects multicultural education and is accurate, current, and free of bias; and provide ample opportunities for interaction and communication student to student, student to instructor, and instructor to student. Course(s) will be provided in a hybrid model that includes instruction and monitoring by a highly qualified educator employed by the Wareham Public Schools.
3. **Student Assessment.** The course(s) use multiple strategies and activities to assess student readiness for and progress in course content, skills, and concepts; and provide students with feedback on their progress throughout the course.
4. **Technology.** The course(s) take full advantage of a variety of technology tools, have user-friendly interface, and meet accessibility standards for interoperability and access for all learners, including learners with special needs.
5. **Course Evaluation and Management.** The course(s) are evaluated regularly for effectiveness, using a variety of assessment strategies, and the findings are used as a basis for improvement. The course(s) are kept updated, both in content in the application of new research on course design and technologies.

All online courses will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction in consultation with the Curriculum Integration Coordinator and the

respective school principal. The review process will include evaluation of the course(s) based on the criteria listed above using a delineated rubric to be kept on file in the Office of Curriculum & Instruction.

Any courses purchased from vendors will be subject to the review criteria. Vendors will also be reviewed for viability and conformity with Wareham Public Schools technology and curriculum standards.

Reviewed by SCPRSCP: March 8, 2011

ADOPTED: MARCH 23, 2011

Reviewed by SCPRSCP: March 14, 2016

AMENDED: MARCH 23, 2016