

BACKGROUND

This Policy recognizes the responsibility of St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 to meet the individual needs of all students.

DEFINITION

Distance learning, an option different from the traditional classroom, takes place when space, time or both separate the teacher and the learner. Whether online through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), or a blended approach, or correspondence, distance learning offers educational opportunities that meet students' changing needs and grant them flexibility of learning anytime, anyplace, and at a pace that meets their individual learning styles. The IDLA is not considered to be a correspondence course for purposes of this and other District policies. IDLA is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, which also accredits St. Maries Joint School District No. 41, offering classes taught by Idaho certified master teachers.

STATEMENT

St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 will recognize for academic credit a variety of distance learning programs/courses. These shall include the following:

1. Up to six (6) correspondence courses
2. Idaho Digital Learning Academy courses
3. Local college-university courses
4. Exchange programs with area schools of national/international organizations

In all cases, the course/program must meet with the basic requirements in effect in St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 and have the approval of the Principal.

RULES

1. Eligibility and Registration
 - A. Students, regardless of grade level, who are academically qualified to take a course for high school credit in a St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 public school may use distance learning to take the same course, receive a grade to be averaged into the student's GPA and be granted high school credit when earned through the IDLA. No minimum GPA is required to take a course through distance learning. All prerequisites as determined by St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 must be successfully completed prior to enrollment in a distance learning course.

- B. Online or correspondence learning is an alternative to learning in a traditional classroom. It is not for every student. Characteristics that aid in the success of a distance learning student are:
- i. Reading competency
 - ii. Time management skills
 - iii. Intrinsic motivation
 - iv. Self-discipline
- C. Guidance services will be provided by the student's school of record in the form of:
- i. Assistance in registration
 - ii. Information sharing between institutions
 - iii. Transcript processing
- D. At the discretion of the Principal at the student's school of record, distance learning courses may be selected by students who:
- i. Need to make up credits in order to graduate on schedule
 - ii. Are seeking grade forgiveness
 - iii. Are eligible for hospital or homebound programs
 - iv. Want to take course(s) not offered at their school
 - v. Have scheduling conflicts
 - vi. May need/want a learning environment different from that of a traditional classroom setting
 - vii. Want to accelerate their academic program by taking additional courses to facilitate early graduation
 - viii. Are excused from being physically present on the campus of their school of record for an extended period of time
- E. For online or correspondence courses, parent, student, and principal or a designee must confer and agree that course(s) selected is (are) academically and developmentally appropriate for the student and that all prerequisites as determined by the student's school of record have been completed before registration in a distance learning course.
- F. The IDLA is a fully accredited institution. Therefore, credits earned for taking IDLA classes transfer like credits from any other accredited high school. Requests to transfer credits from similar on-line providers of course-work, which may or may not be accredited, are taken on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to the same rules and regulations as other credit requests.

2. Registration Fees and Costs

- A. In those cases when the student is unable to schedule an appropriate course(s) within St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 or credit recovery is necessary, the District will underwrite the cost of tuition and registration for the IDLA on-line courses. All other costs must be borne by the student and/or his or her family.
- B. IDLA registration fees for courses taken as part of the District's Gifted and Talented program will be paid for by the District.
- C. Distance learning courses, including IDLA classes, completed under this Policy for the purposes other than those described in A and B above will NOT be paid for or reimbursed by the District.
- D. Textbooks required for IDLA courses in cases where the District pays will also be paid for by the District.

3. Courses

- A. All coursework is based on the Idaho State Achievement Standards and meets mandated benchmarks.
- B. All decisions regarding appropriate courses shall be made by the Principal and Superintendent of Schools. Said decisions may be appealed to the Board of Trustees. The ruling of the Board shall be final.

4. Credit

- A. Courses completed under this Policy will be accepted for academic credit at face value. That is, one (1) unit towards graduation will be awarded for each course completed.
- B. All decisions regarding course credit shall be made by the Principal and shall be final.
- C. Percentage grades submitted by the IDLA instructor shall be used to determine a letter grade for each student according to the Policy of the District and the school.
- D. College credit costs shall be the responsibility of the student.

IDAHO DIGITAL LEARNING ACADEMY (IDLA): VERIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

COUNSELOR SECTION ONE		
Student Name: _____		Grade: _____
School:	<input type="checkbox"/> SMMS	<input type="checkbox"/> SMHS <input type="checkbox"/> CEC
Students in grades 7-8 may only take courses from the approved list, unless approval is gained from St. Maries High School and/or a course is part of a gifted program individual education plan.)		
Into which category does this student's proposed IDLA enrollment fall?		
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Year Plan/Gifted IEP	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Recovery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Acceleration/Early Graduation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	
Does this student have an IEP or 504 Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If "yes", please explain: _____		
504/IEP/ELP Contact: _____		
E-Mail: _____	Phone: _____	
Suggested Course(s):		
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended
<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Applicable		
_____ Counselor Signature		

SITE COORDINATOR SECTION TWO	
Site Coordinator: _____	Registration Date: _____
Fees Paid \$ _____	
Session:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sept <input type="checkbox"/> Nov <input type="checkbox"/> Dec <input type="checkbox"/> Jan <input type="checkbox"/> March <input type="checkbox"/> Summer

PRINCIPAL USE ONLY SECTION THREE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved for Reimbursement	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved for Reimbursement
Date: _____	
_____ Principal Signature	

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

Policy History:

Reviewed:	03/11/2013
Adopted:	03/11/2013