

POLICY RELATING TO EDUCATION

ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY

The Wachusett Regional School Committee supports technology as a tool for learning and supports online education as a viable methodology for the delivery of direct instruction. Online education should provide an opportunity for students to accelerate the curriculum, to complete the curriculum and to provide learning opportunities in areas not available to the student due to scheduling conflicts or uniqueness of offering. Online education should also be promoted as a tool for staff development. Consideration for online education may include one or more of the following conditions:

1. The course is not offered at the school;
2. The course is offered at the school, but the student cannot enroll due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict;
3. The course serves as a supplement to extend instruction to those students who are unable to attend classroom instruction;
4. The course services students who have been expelled from the regular school setting but who are eligible for continued educational services; or
5. In unique situations where there is consensus among student, teacher and administrative staff that, due to the differentiating needs of the student whether it be to accelerate and reinforce learning or for advanced learning opportunities, the student requires additional service.

Requests for taking online courses may come from the student, the teacher or the parent. The school principal, in consultation with staff, shall make the final determination as to the acceptability of the course and upon approval, shall fund the course from the school budget, subject to availability of school funds. Consideration by the principal and school staff should include the educational workload of the student, the eligibility of the student to take such a course, equitable access and prerequisites.

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ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY (continued)

Provision for monitoring and assessment of the progress of students who are provided with online learning opportunities should be included in the implementation plan. The school will establish standards and criteria of performance along with a mechanism of assessment for any student involved in the online education program.

Students and parents should be made aware annually of this policy.

First Reading: 01/08/01
Second Reading: 02/12/01

Amendment First Reading: 05/29/03
Amendment Second Reading: 06/09/03

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