

# **Options Indiana ▶** BELONG. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.





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## Welcome

Options Schools is a collection of programs that serve a variety of students in different settings. As a part of our programming, Options offers multiple virtual programs that serve students in grades 6-12. The aims of our program are to serve students who are not close to one of our brick-and-mortar schools and to serve our student populations whose unique needs make attending an in-person program, not a viable option. At Options, we offer a variety of virtual programs to meet the unique needs of our students.

Our Options Indiana's virtual program serves high school students, in grades 9-12, of all ages. Whether you are an incoming freshman or an adult who is missing a few credits to earn your high school diploma, we are the program for you.

Our middle school program is targeted specifically for middle school students in grades 6-8. It uses a program called Sococo which is a virtual school where students can meet with staff and other students to interact live. The program helps connect students across the state of Indiana as if they were just across the room.

Our Options Evening program is a blended program that merges our brick-and-mortar settings with our virtual programming. Students work in the evening on campus from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Teachers are available in person to work with students on course content and give in-person support. Students have the flexibility of our virtual program, but also the support of

in-person attention.

All of the virtual programs that Options offers pairs each student with a certified advisor to help set and monitor weekly progress goals. In order to put students in the best position to reach their **Options** academic goals. virtual programs break the school year into four quarters. Each quarter is like a miniature semester lasting about 9 weeks. Students are able to focus on a few classes each quarter rather than several classes over a semester. We have found that students are better able to keep pace with a smaller number of classes moving at a quicker pace.



# Empowering STUDENT SUCCESS



#### **MISSION**

Options Schools provide a caring community, quality education, and guidance to those students who seek an alternative to traditional schooling.



### **CORE VALUES**

In an intentional and purposeful way, each student is supported and valued at school. Though high expectations are consistent for all, success is defined differently for each student. Teachers are most effective when empowered to innovate, create, and inspire.



### **CORE BELIEFS**

We believe that Options Schools provide purposeful, relevant, and challenging educational experiences.

We believe that Options Schools provide a safe, caring, and healthy environment that promotes freedom of thought and respect for diversity. We believe that each student will graduate with the skills, attitude, knowledge, and compassion to be a contributing member of society and a lifelong learner.

We believe that Options Schools have the flexibility to meet the varied needs of their learners through different instructional techniques and settings.

We believe that Options Schools provide a student centered environment, where every student has an adult advocate.

We believe that Options Schools appreciate and encourage creativity as an integral part of every student's educational experience.



## **OUR TEAM**

PRINCIPALS



LINDA CUNNINGHAM OI SOUTH HS

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Options Indiana South. As the principal of O.I. South, I would like to take a moment to share with you what I believe makes Options Indiana a great place to learn and achieve your educational goals.

We are proud to offer a different kind of educational experience, one that is tailored to the individual needs of each student. Our team is dedicated to providing the best possible support to ensure that our students succeed.



JESSICA SUNDERMAN OI NORTH HS

Here at O.I.. we believe creating in an atmosphere of learning that works with each student's unique needs preferences. and want every student to have a voice in their educational path, and we committed are ensuring that their voices are heard.

As an experienced educator with over 15 years of experience, 12 years at including Options, I have learned that building community and strong relationships with students are essential to academic success.



MELANIE MARTIN-TERRELL OPTIONS MIDDLE SCHOOL

I am thrilled to serve as your principal. With 15 years of experience on the Options Schools team, I am confident in our ability to provide the best possible education for your child.

**Options** Αt Middle School, every student has a dedicated team of educators working together to help them achieve their educational goals. Each student will be assigned an advisor, and our teachers are waiting to share their experience and assist with assignments and lessons.

# OPTIONS INDIANA STUDENT AGREEMENTS: BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

As a student, succeeding academically and achieving your goals requires discipline, dedication, and adherence to certain requirements. Options Indiana offers a range of academic programs to help students succeed in their educational journey. We will explore some of the basic requirements of a student enrolled in Options Indiana online program.

Attendance is crucial to academic success, even in an online setting. Options Indiana requires students to log in to Edmentum and check in with their advisor Monday through Friday by 11:00 AM. In the event that you are unable to attend classes, due to illness or other circumstances, it is important to have a parent or guardian contact your advisor as soon as possible.

By staying on top of attendance, you will have the support you need to stay engaged in your classes and succeed academically.

One of the most important requirements of being a successful student is to stay on track with all classes and due dates. As a student of Options Indiana, you are required to spend at least four hours each school day for a total of 20 hours each week studying, completing assignments, and participating in online discussions.

By staying on pace with your classes, you will avoid falling behind and feeling overwhelmed. Make sure to plan your study schedule and



prioritize your assignments to ensure that you stay on track with your coursework.

As part of our personalized approach to education, you will meet with your advisor at least once a quarter for an ISP meeting. This meeting is designed to discuss your progress, set goals, and plan for your academic and personal success. It's an opportunity to receive guidance, support, and personalized feedback from your advisor to help you thrive in your studies.

By fulfilling these basic student requirements - checking in daily for attendance, staying on pace with daily assignments, and attending quarterly ISP meetings with your advisor - you can ensure that you're actively engaged in your studies and making steady progress towards your academic goals.

## ONLINE LEARNING WITH OPTIONS INDIANA: A STUDENT-FIRST APPROACH TO VIRTUAL EDUCATION



# FLEXIBILITY BENEFITTS NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Here at Options, you will find flexibility in many aspects of our programs. Many students find that our flexibility is what helps them achieve their goal of graduating. Whether you're just starting your high school career, or are returning to school after some challenges, our curriculum is available 24/7 for our students.

Since launching the online program in 2016, Options Indiana has established itself as a pioneering force and a front-runner in the field of online education. We take pride in our ability to innovate and lead the way in providing exceptional virtual learning experiences for our students.

Options Indiana is a fully online program designed to meet the needs of students who don't thrive in a traditional classroom setting. With a student-first approach, the program offers a personalized and enriching education experience that is tailored to each student's unique needs.

The program serves 134 Indiana school districts and counting, offering a flexible and accessible alternative to traditional schooling. Students can learn from anywhere, at any time, with the support of a dedicated team of educators and advisors.

At Options Indiana, we empower our staff and students with a diverse range of resources to enhance their learning experience. This includes access to cutting-edge tools such as the Edmentum learning platform and the suite of Google Applications.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT OUR TEACHERS STILL TYPICALLY WORK A TRADITIONAL SCHOOL DAY. THIS IS WHEN THEY WILL WORK ON REPLYING TO YOUR MESSAGE, GRADING ASSIGNMENTS, AND SCHEDULING HELP SESSIONS. STAFF HOURS ARE FROM 8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM AND OPERATE ON THE EASTERN TIME ZONE.

Did you know?
YOU CAN UPLOAD A
MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT
TO GOOGLE DRIVE AND EDIT IT
USING YOUR SCHOOL GOOGLE
ACCOUNT!

# GETTING STARTED WITH OPTIONS

After you enroll you will be sent a confirmation email from the principal. This email will contain all of your important login information and the websites used. You will review how to log in during your initial orientation meeting with your advisor.

Here at Options you will log into your school email account by going to gmail.com and entering your email address and password. Student email addresses are formatted with first name, then a period, and last name, for example

<u>Firstname.Lastname@optionsined.org</u>, while staff email address are formatted with just the first letter of their first names and their last names, <u>Flastname@optionsined.org</u>

When you log in the first time, you will be prompted to create a new password. You will need to write this password down to ensure that you do not lose it. Options uses email to communicate important information to students and parents. Please ensure that you're checking your email at least twice a day. You can add your school email address to your current Gmail app on your electronic device.

## USING GOOGLE APPS

Here at Options students have access to the numerous google applications to help them be successful in school. Students can compose written responses using the Google Docs and easily share their responses with their teachers. Creating presentations using Google Slides is another great tool available to students that can help them create meaningful projects and presentations. **Options** staff uses Google Meets to hold virtual meetings with students and parents. Other applications include using Google's calendar, jam boards, sites, or forms.





Use the QR code to get directions on how to add your school email to your phone or tablet

## ADVISORS PLAY A BIG ROLE

There has been nothing but fairness, kindness and a general care for her and words cannot express what that means to me. I would recommend this school to anyone who would want a caring, kind, and thoughtful environment for their child.

At Options, we understand that each student is unique and requires individual attention and support to succeed. That's why we assign each student an advisor who is their first point of contact and with whom they check in daily for minors or weekly for adult learners

The role of the advisor at Options Indiana is to help students navigate their coursework and achieve their academic goals. Students work with their advisor to set quarterly goals and discuss their progress regularly. This ongoing communication ensures that students are on track and making progress toward their goals.

However, the advisor's role at Options Indiana goes beyond academic support. They are also there to provide emotional support, encouragement, and guidance as needed. At Options, we understand that many of our students face personal challenges that can affect their academic performance.

As your Options advocate, your advisor will work with you to ensure that you have access to all the resources and support you need to succeed. Whether it's academic support, mental health services, or financial aid questions, your advisor will be there to help you navigate the system and access the resources you need to be successful.

At Options Indiana, we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. That's why we provide each student with a personal advisor who is dedicated to their success. With ongoing support, encouragement, and guidance, our students are empowered to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.

So, if you're a student at Options Indiana, remember that your advisor is your partner in success. Reach out to them whenever you need support, and together, you can overcome any challenge and achieve your goals.



## O.I. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students will develop a plan for attendance with their advisor based on their academic and medical needs. All minor students, under 18, are expected to have daily communication with their advisor. If a student does not communicate with their advisor on a school day, the student will be marked absent unexcused.

Students may earn excused absences for illness, medical and legal appointments, religious holidays, bereavement, or other acceptable good cause permitted by law. When a student is absent from school without the permission of their parent or guardian, they may be considered truant. Students, parents, and the school will work to establish a process to help assist students with meeting the appropriate attendance requirements. The school will work with parents and guardians to address chronic absenteeism. We may devise

behavior plans, attendance contracts, or other plans, within the limits of the law, to help correct the situation. Absences beyond 10 may have truancy filed.



Pursuant to Indiana
Code §20-33-2-5 states that
a student must attend
school each and every day
school is in session unless
an exception exists. You
must show proof of
such an exception.

## TO VIEW OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR:

optionsschools.org/general-info



## A TYPICAL VIRTUAL DAY

Many families benefit from having the flexibility that a virtual school allows. However, if you've ever wondered what a virtual school day looks like, you're not alone. There are an infinite number of possibilities that might work for your family. Here are a few examples:

### MORNING SCHOOL EXAMPLE

- 8:00 AM 9:00 AM breakfast
- 9:00 AM 11:00 AM check in with advisor and log into classes
- 11:00 AM NOON take a break/ do some chores
- NOON 2:00 PM log back into classes
- 2:00 PM finish the day by asking any questions and submitting assignments



## Afternoon school example

- 11:00 AM NOON check in with advisor and log into classes
- NOON 1:00 PM take a break
- 1:00 PM 2:00 PM log back in and continue working
- 2:00 PM 3:00 PM take a break
- 3:00 PM 4:00 PM log back in and continue working
- 4:00 PM 5:00 PM take a break
- 5:00 PM 6:00 PM log back in and continue working
- 6:00 PM finish the day by asking questions and submitting assignments

## Ultimate Flexibility

Some students schedules will change each week due to their individual needs. Our program allows students to work around their schedule and make adjustments as needed. Our assignments are accessible 24/7 to meet the needs of our diverse learners.

# GET HELP WITH YOUR ONLINE SCHOOLING AT OPTIONS INDIANA

Learning online can be challenging at times, but at Options Indiana, you have a team of dedicated staff and teachers who are here to help you succeed. Whether you need assistance with your lessons or have questions about your assignments, we're here to support you every step of the way. Here's how you can get help when you need it.

## **Scheduling Help Sessions**

If you need extra help, you can schedule a help session with your teacher as needed. You can do this by reaching out to your teacher over email or phone and letting them know when you are available and what you would like to review. If you need help finding the correct teacher or staff member, you can always reach out to your advisor for assistance.

Some teachers use scheduling links to make it easier for you to schedule appointments. If this is the case, you can simply use the link provided by your teacher to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience.

## Meeting Outside of Regular Hours

If you need to meet with your teacher or advisor outside of the regular school hours, you can request a meeting. This means that if you have a conflict during the regular school hours, you can ask for a meeting at a different time. However, please keep in mind that scheduling meetings outside of school hours may be challenging, so it's important to communicate your needs in advance and be patient.



CONNECT
WITH
OPTIONS
STAFF





WE LOVE THE SCHOOL-LIFE
BALANCE AT OPTIONS INDIANA FOR SO MANY
REASONS! IT AFFORDS OUR SON THE FLEXIBILITY
TO ACCOMMODATE THE FREQUENT TRAVEL
INVOLVED IN PLAYING AAA HOCKEY, DAILY ICE
PRACTICE, AND WORKOUT SESSIONS. THE
SMALLER CLASS LOAD IS LESS OVERWHELMING
THAN TRADITIONAL SCHOOL AND HAS
ALLOWED HIM TO THRIVE!
THE JUAREZ FAMILY

# OPTIONS INDIANA STUDENT AGREEMENTS: BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

As a student at our online school, there are three basic requirements that you need to fulfill to stay on track and be successful:

### 1. DAILY ATTENDANCE CHECK-IN:

You must check in daily for attendance by 11 am. This can usually be done through your online learning platform or by following the instructions provided by your school. Checking in on time ensures that you're counted as present for the day and helps us track your attendance.

### 2. Stay on Pace with Daily Assignments:

To stay on pace with your daily assignments and make progress in your studies, you need to complete a minimum of 20 hours of school work each week. This includes time spent on assignments, lessons, projects, and other learning activities assigned by your teachers.

Managing your time effectively and dedicating sufficient hours to your studies is important to stay on track with your coursework.

## 3. Quarterly Meeting with Your Advisor:

As part of our personalized approach to education, you will meet with your advisor at least once a quarter. This meeting is designed to discuss your progress, set goals, and plan for your academic and personal success. It's an opportunity to receive guidance, support, and personalized feedback from your advisor to help you thrive in your studies.

By fulfilling these three basic student requirements- you can ensure that you're actively engaged in your studies and making steady progress toward your academic goals.



# EARNING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA WITH OPTIONS

Achieving academic success and earning high school credit are important milestones in a student's journey towards achieving their career goals.

Options Charter Schools work with every student to meet their state required graduation pathway.



#### **CREDIT ATTAINMENT:**

At Options Indiana, students have the opportunity to retake a class to improve their grade for the purpose of meeting Academic Honors or Technical Honors Diploma requirements, meeting a course prerequisite, or improving their individual GPA. All grades will be recorded in the student's course history and transcript. Students must notify their school counselor when the replacement grade is earned, and the counselor will notify the registrar to ensure an updated GPA is calculated.

Grades are earned according to a traditional grading scale: A 100-90%, B 89-80%, C 79-70%, D 69-60%, and F 59-0%.



Options Indiana recognizes graduating seniors with distinguished academic achievement using the Latin Honor System. Students who earn each of these honors will be issued special recognition, provided by the school, for the commencement ceremony.

- Summa Cum Laude (with highest distinction) 4.0 and higher
- Magna Cum Laude (with great distinction)-3.800-3.999
- Cum Laude (with distinction)- 3.500-3.799

The cumulative GPA earned at the end of the semester prior to graduation will be used for the calculation.



## C-RE40

Effective beginning with students who enter high school in 2012-13 school year (class of 2016).

Course and Credit Requirements			
English/	8 credits		
Language Arts	Including a balance of literature, composition and speech.		
Mathematics	6 credits (in grades 9-12)		
	2 credits: Algebra I 2 credits: Geometry 2 credits: Algebra II or complete integrated Math. II, II, and III for 6 credits. Students must take a math course or quantitative reasoning course each year in high school		
Science	6 credits		
	2 credits: Biology I 2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics I or Integrated Chemistry-Physics		
	2 credits: any Core 40 science course		
Social	6 credits		
Studies	2 credits: U.S. History 1 credit: U.S. Government 1 credit: Economics 2 credits: World History/Civilization or Geography/History of the World		
Directed	5 credits		
Electives	World Languages Fine Arts Career and Technical Education		
Physical Education	2 credits		
Health and Wellness	1 credit		
Electives*	6 credits (College and Career Pathway courses recommended)		
	40 Total State Credits Required		

Schools may have additional local graduation requirements that apply to all students (not required for students with an IEP).

\* Specifies the number of electives required by the state. High school schedules provide time for many more electives during the high school years. All students are strongly encouraged to complete a College and Career Pathway (selecting electives in a deliberate manner) to take full advantage of career and college exploration and preparation opportunities.

\*\*SAT scores updated September, 2017

\*\*\*WorkKeys assessment titles updated, 2018

#### C.RE40 with Academic Honors

(minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Academic Honors designation, students must:

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- . Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits.
- Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits
- (6 credits in one language or 4 credits each in two languages)
- Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits.
- Earn a grade of a "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- . Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- · Complete one of the following:
  - A. Earn 4 credits in 2 or more AP courses and take corresponding AP exams
  - Earn 6 verifiable transcripted college credits in dual credit courses from the approved dual credit list.
  - C. Earn two of the following:
    - A minimum of 3 verifiable transcripted college credits from the approved dual credit list.
    - 2. 2 credits in AP courses and corresponding AP exams,
  - 2 credits in IB standard level courses and corresponding IB exams.
     Earn a composite score of 1250 or higher on the SAT and a minimum of
  - Earn a composite score of 1250 or nigher on the SAT and a minimum of 560 on math and 590 on the evidence based reading and writing section.\*\*
     Earn an ACT composite score of 26 or higher and complete written section.
  - F. Earn 4 credits in IB courses and take corresponding IB exams.

#### CoRE40 with Technical Honors

(minimum 47 credits)

For the Core 40 with Technical Honors designation, students must

- Complete all requirements for Core 40.
- Earn 6 credits in the college and career preparation courses in a state-approved College & Career Pathway and one of the following:
  - 1. Pathway designated industry-based certification or credential, or
  - Pathway dual credits from the approved dual credit list resulting in 6 transcripted college credits
- Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.
- · Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.
- Complete one of the following,
  - A. Any one of the options (A F) of the Core 40 with Academic Honors
  - B. Earn the following minimum scores on WorkKeys: Workplace Documents, Level 6; Applied Math, Level 6; and Graphic Literacy, Level 5.\*\*\*
  - C. Earn the following minimum score(s) on Accuplacer: Writing 80, Reading 90. Math 75.
  - Earn the following minimum score(s) on Compass: Algebra 66 Writing 70, Reading 80.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

AT OPTIONS, STUDENTS ARE PLACED IN "COHORT" GROUPS THAT BEGIN ON THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR. THE STATE EXPECTS THE MAJORITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS. TO DO SO, STUDENTS SHOULD EARN A MINIMUM OF 10 CREDITS PER YEAR FOR A TOTAL OF 40 CREDITS.

For Indiana high school students, graduation is not just about earning a diploma. It's also about being prepared for the next phase of their lives, whether that be college, the military, or the workforce. To meet the graduation requirements, students should plan their schedules accordingly and make sure they are taking the necessary courses and earning the required credits.



# WHAT IS OPTIONS INDIANA SENIOR INSTITUTE, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE GRADUATES?

Service learning projects are activities that let students apply what they learn in the classroom to help their community. These projects help students learn important skills like teamwork and problem-solving, while also making a positive impact on the world. By doing service learning projects, students can understand different cultures and make a difference in their community.

All students at Options Charter Schools take part in our senior institute. This allows students to reflect upon their own skills they have developed and create a project that will benefit the community. Students learn valuable skills while implementing their project. Additionally. service **learning** raise about projects can awareness important issues in the community and inspire others to get involved. This can lead to a ripple effect of positive change as more people become engaged in improving their community.





## WHAT'S IN STORE AFTER GRADUATION?

### 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from high school. In middle and high school, 21st Century Scholars are connected to programs and resources to help them plan, prepare, and pay for college. Once in college, scholars receive support to complete their college degrees and connect to career opportunities. All applications to the 21st Century Scholars program must be submitted before June 30th of the eligible student's 8th grade year.

### **COMMON APP**

The Common Application, which is accepted by more than 1,000 schools, including some colleges located outside the U.S., helps streamline essential part of the an admissions process for students. Through first-time and transfer platform, the applicants alike can apply to multiple colleges at once. You can apply to 25 colleges here in Indiana with one application and many more around the country.

### **FASFA**

Every student is required to fill out a FAFSA in order to be eligible for and receive financial aid of any kind, including grants, loans, and scholarships.

Every student and parent must be assigned an FSA ID that will serve as a signature on all forms. Visit **studentaid.gov** to apply for an FSA ID and to fill out the FAFSA.

# FILLING OUT FASFA



### **FASFA CHECKLIST:**

https://www.nasfaa.org/uploads/documents/ FAFSA Checklist.pdf

### WHAT DOES COLLEGE COST?

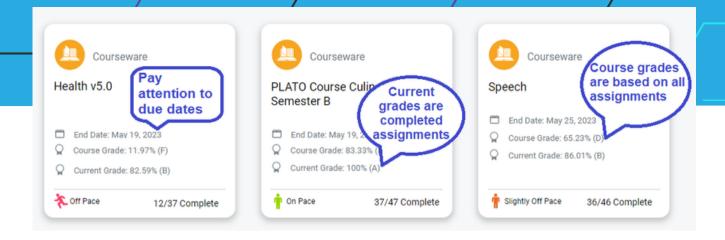
http://www.indianacollegecosts.org/

## REMEMBER: NEVER PAY FOR A SERVICE TO HELP YOU APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!









## **EDMENTUM COURSEWARE**

All of your school work will be housed on the website Edmentum, You can access this site by going to <a href="https://login.">https://login.</a> edmentum.com/ and login typing the information that was sent you at enrollment. Most students will use the account code OCS. Your login will be the first letter of your first name vour last name, Flastname. and your password is your first There are name. no capital letters required to log in to Edmentum.

Once you have logged in you will see the classes that you are enrolled in. Pay attention to the due date for your courses. These deadlines are important for you to earn

your credits. You will also see two different grades. The course grade is based on all of the assignments for the The entire course. current grade is based on all of the assignments that have been completed so far. You will also see a stick person. Each morning when you log there will assignments that need to be completed for the day. It is likely your stick person will be orange until vou complete those daily lf tasks. the stick person is green then you are on track or ahead of pace. Your stick person will be pink if you are behind in This vour classes.

means that you should be spending 4 hours a day, or more, trying to get back on pace.

### **Parent Accounts**

Edmentum has a side parent called Sensei where parents their see can child's progress. Your advisor can help you set up an account. Parents can get reports automatically their sent to emails on a daily or weekly basis.

## **NAVIGATING YOUR COURSES**

Once you click on course in Edmentum will bring vou to а timeline. ΑII of the assignments for the course have due dates listed next to them. There are usually one or two assignments that are due each day and a variety of assignments that you will complete, which vary by course. Each course is broken into units of You study. must complete the first unit before moving on to the There next unit. are lessons or tutorials that contain the information found typically in textbook. These lessons interactive also have elements to them for students to watch, click, sort, or review important ideas. Students may take notes over this information and use their notes on the tests. Your lesson may contain resources and reading tools on the left side of the screen such as the



speaker tool, dictionaries. calculators, highlighters, or guided notes. At the end of the tutorials or lessons students will take a short quiz about what they have learned. Each unit typically also contains at least one discussion question and Students unit activity. should compose original responses and ensure they're using school

appropriate language submitting these when assignments. Once vou have completed all of your assignments and need something unlocked. be sure to reach out to your teacher for assistance. Teachers are available to meet with students that are with their struaglina lessons or assignments. iust ask!



## OPTIONS IMPLEMENTS STRICT ANTI-PLAGIARISM MEASURES TO FOSTER ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty that Options Indiana takes seriously. Students and parents should understand the importance of giving proper credit to the original author and the consequences of plagiarism.

### WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Plagiarism is using someone else's work, ideas, or words without proper credit or permission. It can include copying and pasting from a source without citation, paraphrasing without giving proper credit, or submitting someone else's work as your own. Plagiarism is considered an academic violation. Let's look at some ways to avoid plagiarizing in your coursework.

## WAYS TO PREVENT PLAGIARISM:

There are several ways to prevent plagiarism, including:

 Citing your sources: Whenever you use someone else's work, make sure to give credit.

- Paraphrasing/Summarizing: If you want to use someone else's ideas, try to paraphrase or summarize- putting them into your own words instead of copying them directly. This will help you avoid plagiarism. Remember you must always acknowledge the author when it is not your original idea.
- You can also reach out to Options staff for more information and assistance with help on citing sources, how to paraphrase, summarize and more.

## OPTIONS INDIANA'S POLICY AND CONSEQUENCES

First plagiarism in a course requires a faceto-face meeting for clarification of plagiarism and teaching of how to avoid it. The student may resubmit the assignment.

Second plagiarism in the same course, the student will receive a zero on the assignment.

Third plagiarism in the same course, the student will be removed from the course for 3 months and the student will start over.

We believe that our consequences are fair and lead our students to a better understanding of the value in avoiding plagiarism.

## VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS EMPHASIZE PLAGIARISM-FREE ZONE: ONLINE SCHOOL TAKES A STAND ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE MISUSE OF AI

Academic integrity is an essential aspect of education that helps students learn the value of honesty, hard work, and intellectual property. Unfortunately, the rise of technology has brought new challenges to academic integrity, including the use and misuse of AI.

Al, or artificial intelligence, is the ability of machines to learn and solve problems that would typically require human intelligence. Al has been used in various fields, including education, to enhance the learning experience and make it more personalized. However, Al can also be misused to violate academic integrity, primarily through plagiarism.

Al tools can generate essays, articles, and even entire books that appear to be original and authentic. These tools can also be used to paraphrase existing content, making it difficult for teachers and professors to identify plagiarism. Moreover, some students may use Al-powered writing services to produce academic papers without doing any work themselves

As a result, it is crucial for students to understand the importance of academic integrity and the consequences of plagiarism. Academic integrity is not just about avoiding plagiarism, but also about acknowledging the work of others and being honest about your own contributions.

Fortunately, there are ways to prevent the misuse of AI and promote academic integrity. For example, teachers and professors can use plagiarism detection software to identify instances of plagiarism. Additionally, students can use AI-powered tools for research purposes, but they should always ensure that they give proper credit to their sources.



Did you know?
OPTIONS VIRTUAL STUDENTS
PARTICIPATE IN STATE
TESTING, JUST LIKE STUDENTS
IN A TRADITIONAL BRICKAND-MORTAR SCHOOL

## STATE TESTING MANDATE PUTS STUDENT TO THE TEST

## Middle School

In Indiana, middle school students are required to take the ILEARN (Indiana Evaluation Learning Assessment Readiness Network) exam. which assesses their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts (ELA) Mathematics. The ILEARN exam is administered to students in grades 3-8 and measures their proficiency in ELA and Mathematics based on Indiana's Academic Standards. Additionally sixth grade students will take the Science ilearn. The ILEARN exam consists of both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions that students to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Overall. Indiana's state testing requirements for middle school students aim to ensure that all students are prepared for academic and career success.

## HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY

Additionally, Indiana requires all students to take the Biology ECA (Endof-Course Assessment) exam, which knowledge measures their and understanding of biology concepts taught throughout the course. **ECA** is Biology а graduation requirement for all Indiana high school students.



Name of Assessment	Window Begins	Window Ends	
Indiana Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network (ILEARN)			
ILEARN Biology ECA Winter Administration 1	February 5, 2024	February 23, 2024	
ILEARN 3-8	April 15, 2024	May 10, 2024	
ILEARN Biology ECA <sup>2</sup> and Optional U.S. Government ECA Spring Administration	April 15, 2024	May 17, 2024	
SAT			
SAT Primary Administration	March 4, 2024	March 15, 2024	
SAT Makeup Administration	April 8, 2024	April 19, 2024	

THESE TESTS MUST BE TAKEN IN PERSON,
TYPICALLY AT A LOCAL LIBRARY.

## EVALUATING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

I think the best thing
we can teach kids is
integrity and model that for
kids. Integrity has always
been a big thing for me. It is
the one thing you can't ever
get back, once you give
someone your integrity, you
can't get that back.
~Anita Silverman

ILEARN Biology is a required test for students in high school. The Biology exam is taken once students have completed both semesters of Biology, usually during 9th grade. This test assesses a student's knowledge and understanding of biology concepts taught throughout the course. ILEARN Biology is made of two parts, the first part is the multiple choice section (CAT) which reviews biology concepts. The second part is the performance task (PT) which is designed to assess students' ability to apply their biology knowledge and skills to authentic, realworld situations, and to demonstrate their ability to think critically. communicate effectively. and scientific reasoning to solve problems.

## **In-Person Testing**

Options Schools are required to participate in state testing, just like traditional schools. During the testing window, staff will meet with students inperson for required state testing. We do our best to accommodate families by providing advance notice and securing locations near students' homes, when available.

### Virtual Testing for NWEA

NWEA is an assessment used by many schools to measure student growth and achievement. NWEA assessments are computer-based and adaptive, meaning that the difficulty of questions changes based on a student's response. Students take reading, language arts, and math.

NWEA scores are used by schools to track student achievement over time and identify areas where students may need additional support. The scores are also used to measure school and district performance and compare it to state and national averages. NWEA scores are used with other data to provide a more complete picture of a student's progress and academic needs.

Options Charter Schools uses NWEA scores taken multiple times throughout the year to help provide support necessary to students. Students may take the NWEA test from the comfort of their own home, while being virtually monitored by staff members.

## THE MAIN OFFICE

## Free/Reduced Forms

Options has a new process for completing Free/Reduced Meal Application Forms. While your student learns through an online platform, Options does not charge any textbook/technology fees. If you believe your family would financially qualify for this program, you will help Options Schools their program services expand and curriculum. Previously, during the pandemic there were additional food support services provided to families who were approved to receive Free/Reduced support. With our current economy, there may be possible resources to families who qualify for this program.



To apply, please visit LINQ Connect at **linqconnect.com** and "start meal application".

You will search for Options school district and find "Options Schools Inc. (Noblesville, Indiana)" will pop up for you to select.

## POWERSCHOOL

Attendance and grades will be updated quarterly in our Powerschool Student Information System (SIS).

## **CHROMEBOOKS**

Students that are in need of a computer to complete their assignments will be issued a school Chromebook. A device is not guaranteed, but if you are in need, please contact your principal to request a device.

Students that have a school Chromebook will need to bring their device to any in-person testing.

If your device is lost or broken, including charging chords, you may be responsible for replacing them. Options does not offer insurance for these electronic devices.

Upon graduation, or if you withdraw, you will need to return your device to Options. Your principal can help facilitate returning your device.





# SPECIFIC INFORMATION MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Advising

Our staff will be advisors to each student and will support the student with an Individualized Service Plan (ISP). Each student will set three goals: academic, behavioral, and social/emotional. These goals will be reviewed on a regular basis.

### Courses

Options Indiana has a Quarter system for academic scheduling. We utilize the Edmentum educational platform as our curriculum guidance with a focus on Indiana State Standards. The middle school students will have four, 9-week courses, with English (Language Arts), Math, Science offered every quarter. Social Studies and Elective courses will be alternating quarters.

Elective courses will be assigned by grade level. Final grades for coursework will be submitted at the end of each quarter.

### **Attendance for Middle School**

- Students must attend school for 4 hours per school day (20 hours per week).
- Attendance is taken every morning for the previous day by the student's advisor.
- Students must check-in and speak to their advisor on Sococo (MS) or other means every school day, preferably by 11:00 a.m.
- Students and/or parents will be contacted each day if students have not checked in with their advisor by 11:00 am.
- In situations of doctor appointments or illness, a student may make up time on the weekend or during non-school hours and attendance will be corrected. Otherwise, please provide a doctor's statement for an excused absence.

Every student has the right to attend school and be safe.

Every student deserves the opportunity to learn.

Every student has the opportunity to thrive.

BE SAFE. BEHAVE. BE WISE.

BE GOOD. BE CAREFUL.





## **OPTIONSSCHOOLS.ORG**

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