



— FLEX Academy for Success and Innovation —

FLEX Academy offers flexible, teacher-led online courses both during the school day and after hours. This enables middle and high school students to expand their learning day and gain credits that lead to graduation as well as college and career readiness. While graded items in each course have scheduled due dates, students have the flexibility of working on courses from school, home or a nearby library. Students may elect to take any course offered by FLEX Academy with approval by a local school counselor or designee **prior to enrollment**.

FLEX Spells Success

Since opening its virtual doors in January 2017, FLEX Academy has had much success. During the 2019-2020 school year, 756 seniors graduated from their local high schools after completing courses in FLEX Academy. In the 2020-2021 school year, that number increased to 882 students.

During the 2021 - 2022 school year, the impact of COVID-19 has led to an exponential increase in FLEX Academy's enrollment as the district offers a full-time program for high school students who prefer a virtual option for instruction. As we continue to experience growth with our virtual program, we will remain flexible so that we address and adapt to the needs of our students and families.

What to expect as a FLEX Academy Student

FLEX Academy courses are asynchronous. This means that students will always have access to content. There will be live teacher sessions weekly and instructors are available through Verge during the regular school day. However, there will be no daily face-to-face instruction.

Courses correspond with semester-length courses in brick-and-mortar schools. If you attend a school that uses block scheduling, your year-long courses will be divided into two parts: Part A and Part B. Both must be completed to receive credit at the end of the semester. If you regularly attend a school that uses traditional scheduling, you will be enrolled in either Part A or Part B of the course. Flex Academy has 4 program options:

FLEX Ahead: During the Day – Teacher-led virtual courses taken during the school day at their primary school as part of the student's state funded schedule.

FLEX Ahead: Beyond the Day – Teacher-led virtual courses taken beyond the school day at home and in addition to the student's state funded schedule.

FLEX Restore: Teacher-led Credit Recovery option provided for students who failed a course beyond the school day. With the sudden onset of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus, DCSD provided a virtual option for parents/students who did not want to physically return to the schoolhouse.

FLEX Academy High (Full-Time): Teacher-led virtual courses taken during the school day at home.

Taking Responsibility

Some students find learning online more challenging than attending a brick-and-mortar school because they must schedule their own time rather than following a bell schedule. Students are responsible for keeping up with their assignments and taking the initiative to ask questions. However, some students find the flexibility important to meeting their needs given health, activities, or other considerations. Developing this responsibility can be demanding work, but it is also great learning experience for students as they prepare for their preferred futures.

Content and Assessments

The course planner will be used to determine the assessment due dates. Content and assessments will be available per 4.5 week grading period. Once the grading period has passed, all content with due dates falling within that grading period will be unavailable.

FLEX Academy Teachers

FLEX Academy teachers hold valid Georgia teaching certifications and are highly qualified in their subject areas as required by DeKalb County School District. These teachers thoroughly review your submitted assignments and provide valuable feedback to help further your understanding of the content. They are available to answer questions by Verge or Microsoft Teams.

Instruction Anytime, Anywhere, Any Pace

It is highly recommended that students use a Chromebook, laptop, or desktop computer to complete the coursework. DCSD provides devices by student request from the student's home school.

For more information or to register for FLEX, please visit
<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/flex-academy/registration/>