

Section 8-17.3. Online courses allowed; must be enrolled in a public school; teachers licensed by the Board of Education; administrators must hold an advanced degree.

– A. The School Board may enter into contracts, consistent with the criteria approved by the Board of Education, with approved private or nonprofit organizations to provide multi-division online courses and virtual school programs. Such contracts are exempt from the Virginia Public Procurement Act. Information regarding online courses and programs that are available through Suffolk Public Schools is posted on the division's website. The information includes the types of online courses and programs available to students through the division, when the division will pay course fees and other costs for nonresident students, and the granting of high school credit.

B. Any student enrolled in any online course or virtual program offered by Suffolk Public Schools must be enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools as provided in Virginia Code § 22.1-3.1. The student's parent or guardian must give written permission prior to the enrollment of the student in any full-time virtual program offered by Suffolk Public Schools. A student who is enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools is not charged tuition for enrolling in any online course or virtual program offered by Suffolk Public Schools. However, tuition may be charged to students, except children with disabilities who are enrolled in the division's full-time virtual school program, who do not reside within the boundaries of the school division.

C. Teachers who deliver instruction to students through online courses or virtual school programs must be licensed by the Board of Education and are subject to the requirements of Policy Section 7-20.1.

D. The administrator of a virtual school program must hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with educational and work experience in administering educational programs. Ordinance 23/24-49, Effective: January 11, 2024)

Legal Authority – Virginia Code §§ 22.1-23.6, 22.1-212.24, 22.1-212.25, 22.1-212.26, 22.1-212.27, 22.1-215, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, and 22.1-296.4 (1950), as amended.