

Considering Distance Education: Online, Aligned, Teacher-Directed, BlendEd, Print-Based



Questions to Ask the School

What percent of the course is synchronous (live teaching and class discussions over a whiteboard via Zoom, Blackboard, Skype, GoogleMeets) and what percent is asynchronous (text read from a screen in a Learning Management System – LMS, and textbook, and links to videos)?

How often are the synchronous sessions?

How many students are participating in the synchronous sessions?

Are cameras and microphones expected to be on?

Are the synchronous sessions mandatory to attend or is watching the recording later enough?

What time of the day is the live sessions? (Some students work better at different times of the day).

How many assignments are required for (grade+course)? Can be broken down to how many quizzes, discussions, written pieces of work, exams, are required? Is small group work required?

How many hours per day if my child expected to work on each course?

Do you have a sample course that we can peek into before we register to see how organized it is and how the layout is?

How does the teacher teach my child who can't read yet? (If they say that you do the teaching - RUN! That is illegal!)

If the online course is asynchronous, do the online materials and textbook and print materials teach my child the whole course?

Will you loan out physical paper textbooks, or are they only available digitally?

Does my child take an "Intro to Online Learning Module" first to learn how to navigate the Learning Management System and assignment Dropbox? If high school, does she receive credits for taking the orientation above?

How often is the teacher available for help and what format is the teacher available for help - zoom, phone or email?

How soon is marking done? (A week is pretty standard).

Can the parent access the teacher from outside the LMS (Learning Management System) for conferences?