



Online Learning (OLL) Frequently Asked Questions:

Is the MSC Online Learning Program approved by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)? The MSC Online Learning Program is an approved provider of supplemental online courses. MSC offers curriculum to students in grades 7-12. As a supplemental program, students remain enrolled in their own district while taking courses through our online program.

Is the MSC Online Learning Program open to all Minnesota students? Yes, however a student age 17 or younger must have the written consent of a parent or guardian to apply.

Do teachers of online courses need to be licensed in Minnesota? All MSC Online teachers are properly licensed to teach in Minnesota.

Why do students take supplemental online courses? MSC Online provides challenging educational opportunities for students who may need to make up credits, have scheduling conflicts in their home district, or want access to courses their district can't provide.

Can a school district prohibit a student from applying for an online course? No, a school district or charter school may not prohibit a student from enrolling in online learning. (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095 Subdivision 3a).

Can a school put into place requirements for taking online courses? No. By statute, all students have a right to enroll in online courses regardless of a student's year in school or GPA. A student has the right to enroll in an online course even if the course is already offered by the district.

Who pays for the courses? MSC will submit to the Department of Education for Online Learning (OLL) funding. In some cases, the student's school district will collect the state aid and MSC will bill the school. MSC also offers a summer session. Typically, courses taken during the summer are paid by the parent/guardian. In some cases, school districts may be willing to cover the cost. Check with your school.

If I'm having problems with my district allowing my child to enroll in online courses, who should I contact? The Minnesota Department of Education can give assistance or statute clarification. Contact Jeff Plaman by email at: mde.onlinelearning@state.mn.us or by phone at 651-582-8457.

What does a typical online course look like? Sample courses can be found on the MSC website. Go to <http://www.msconline.us/> and click on the "Sample Courses" link located on the left side menu.

How many courses can a student take through MSC Online? Students seeking to take online offerings may take up to 50 percent of a full schedule of courses per term. Students may exceed the 50% limit with permission from their district through agreements between the enrolling district and MSC Online.

Can a student participate in online learning courses beyond being a full-time student? Yes. The statute states that enrollment in courses, beyond full-time status, is permitted under a separate agreement that includes terms for payment of any tuition or course fees. So students can pay their own expenses, and/or if a district chooses this option for a student it is at the district's expense. In each of these instances funding is not generated for the school district.

The enrolling (resident) district may also reduce the instructional contact time of an online learning student in proportion to the number of online learning courses the student takes from an online learning provider that is not the enrolling district (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095 Subdivision 3d)

A public school student must first be offered a reduction of instructional contact time in the enrolling district so that full-time status is not exceeded. If a student/family elects not to reduce instructional contact time to within full-time enrollment, then payment of tuition is allowable.

Are there deadlines for student application to online learning and notifications to students and resident districts? In order that a student may enroll in online learning, the student and student's parents must submit an application to the online learning provider and identify the reason for enrolling in online learning. The online learning provider that accepts a student under this section must within ten days notify the student and the enrolling district in writing if the enrolling district is not the online learning provider. The student and family must notify the online learning provider of their intent to enroll in online learning within ten days of acceptance, at which time the student and parent must sign a statement of assurance that they have reviewed the online course or program and understand the expectations of online learning enrollment. The online learning provider must notify the enrolling district of the student's enrollment in online learning in writing on a form provided by the MDE.

Supplemental online learning notification to the enrolling district will include the courses or program, credits to be awarded, the start date of online enrollment, and confirmation that the courses will meet the student's graduation plan. A student may enroll in supplemental online learning courses up to the midpoint of the enrolling district's term. The enrolling district may waive this requirement for special circumstances and upon acceptance by the online provider. (Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095 Subdivision 3d 3 a & b)

How does the student get access to necessary technology for online learning? An online learning student has the same access to the computer hardware and education software available in a school as all other students in the enrolling district. Some students take their online courses at school utilizing school computers, while others access their courses from their home computers.

How do I enroll in the MSC Online Program? Go to <http://www.msconline.us/> and click on the link titled, "Enrolling in our Courses". This link will contain all the information and help documents you need to enroll in our courses.