



# EGUSD Virtual Academy

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**Q: What is the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: The EGUSD Virtual Academy is a free online educational option provided by the Elk Grove Unified School District. The academy offers students the opportunity to be a part of a high-performing school district that is recognized both statewide and nationally for its commitment to all students reaching their highest potential and going on to college and careers.

EGUSD Virtual Academy students complete daily lessons online guided by EGUSD credentialed teachers. Curriculum and services are provided through a partnership with K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa, a national online education program provider.

Students enrolled in the EGUSD Virtual Academy can earn an accredited high school diploma through the Elk Grove Unified School District.

**Q: Why was the EGUSD Virtual Academy created?**

A: The EGUSD Virtual Academy was created as an additional educational option for parents and their children. EGUSD recognizes that students' schedules and needs vary. This Virtual Academy offers students additional options and flexibility.

**Q: What is K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa?**

A: K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa, a technology-based education company, is the leader in online learning for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Since its founding in 1999, K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa has delivered over 1.5 million courses to more than 150,000 students in the U.S. and across the world. For more information on K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa, visit [www.k12.com](http://www.k12.com).

**Q: Who can enroll in the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: Any student in grades K-12 in Sacramento County - along with students in the neighboring counties of Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter and Yolo - can enroll in the EGUSD Virtual Academy.

**Q: My child has special circumstances which are not conducive to regular school hours. Will the EGUSD Virtual Academy be able to accommodate him?**

A: Yes. EGUSD Virtual Academy coursework is available online 24 hours a day. EGUSD Virtual Academy provides an opportunity for students, whether or not they currently attend public schools, to choose online learning to earn their high school diploma. Students in the EGUSD Virtual Academy and their learning coach design their daily schedule to fit into their own lives. Contact with teachers can be arranged to suit the needs of the family.

Elk Grove Unified realizes that no two students are alike. EGUSD Virtual Academy is another educational avenue offered by EGUSD as part of its continuing effort to provide the best education for all children.

**Q: Does the EGUSD Virtual Academy use public school curriculum?**

A: Through a partnership with K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa, all Virtual Academy curriculum is aligned to the State of California's standards and benchmarks. The curriculum includes core subjects and electives, as well as offers a balance between skills and critical thinking.

**Q: I am a stay-at-home parent because I want to be very involved in guiding my child's education. Can EGUSD Virtual Academy accommodate my involvement?**

A: Absolutely. You are your child's learning coach. Your child's teacher works with you as well as your child. You will be provided support from a professional, credentialed teacher so that you can have the involvement you wish in your child's academic progress.

**Q: My child is not reading on grade level – can your program help him?**

A: In grades K-8, Virtual Academy teachers have the expertise to modify instruction and provide tutorials or other supplements to the standard online learning programs in order to assist every child to meet grade-level expectations. By working together with the learning coach, the teacher designs practice opportunities and tutorial sessions to support the learning of every child.

At the high school level, a substantial amount of independent reading and writing is required. Students who are academically successful in the Virtual Academy are reading at or close to grade level.

**Q: Will my student have a "real" teacher?**

A: Yes! The EGUSD Virtual Academy employs credentialed teachers through the Elk Grove Unified School District. These teachers are highly-qualified EGUSD classroom teachers who have chosen to pursue teaching through the Virtual Academy.

**Q: My gifted child is sometimes bored in regular classrooms. Can the EGUSD Virtual Academy help her?**

A: One of the wonderful things about online learning is the ability to match each student's natural pace of learning. The EGUSD Virtual Academy provides opportunities for accelerated pacing as well as opportunities for enrichment in other subjects, such as world languages, that are not always available in regular schools.

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**Q: What resources are provided?**

A: Students who enroll in the EGUSD Virtual Academy will receive free curriculum and services provided via a partnership with K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa who will provide textbooks, CDs, videos, science materials and other supplies for students enrolled in the EGUSD Virtual Academy.

**Q: Do I have to pay for my child to attend the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: No. The EGUSD Virtual Academy is a free public school option.

**Q: How will the student-teacher interaction work?**

A: The EGUSD Virtual Academy is a hybrid model where students have access to teachers both in person and online. EGUSD Virtual Academy students are assigned to highly qualified, credentialed teachers. Elementary students will work with one teacher for all or most of their classes. Secondary students will be assigned to a different teacher in each discipline or content area.

EGUSD Virtual Academy teachers provide guidance, feedback and regular contact to students and their parents. Teachers are available to answer questions, to help with challenging content, to demonstrate procedures and skills, to respond to questions, and to grade, score, and provide feedback on student work.

While most of the student-teacher and parent-teacher interactions will be handled online, telephone conferences and in-person meetings are also a part of the EGUSD Virtual Academy experience.

**Q: How often will I have to bring my student in to physically meet with his/her teacher?**

A: The Virtual Academy teachers offer numerous and varied opportunities for students to come in to the classroom for tutoring, lessons on topics that are difficult and for periodic P.E., science and art lessons/activities. While most of these are optional, there are times when physical participation is required. These time include participation in science labs for high school students and periodic proctored testing.

**Q: Does the EGUSD Virtual Academy develop Individualized Learning Plans for each student?**

A: Yes, an Individualized Instructional Plan will be designed for each student. Students will be placed in the most appropriate classes to suit their needs based upon a review of the student's academic history and assessment data.

**Q: What courses are offered through the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: EGUSD Virtual Academy students have access to more than 60 courses including courses in the sciences, mathematics, history/social sciences, English, art and music, world languages and physical education. Additional electives that a student may choose include courses such as personal finance, anthropology, macroeconomics, business and consumer math, environmental science, computer literacy, animation, and photography.

**Q: Will students enrolled in this program be expected to participate in state-mandated standardized testing? If so, will they be afforded the opportunity to travel to a proctored setting, or are they required to attend regularly scheduled testing dates at current brick-and-mortar school locations?**

A: Yes, students will be expected to participate in state-mandated standardized testing. For both state testing and K<sup>12</sup>/Aventa curriculum, students will take their tests in a proctored environment at an EGUSD Virtual Academy school site.

**Q: What are the total required/expected hours per day that students and/or learning coaches should plan for when enrolling in this school program?**

A: Students and/or learning coaches should plan to spend 15 hours a week for the minimum requirement. As with other learning situations, the most successful students devote more than the minimum number of hours per week to their academic endeavors, typically up to 35 hours a week.

**Q: Are there any enrollment requirements that students must comply with as part of enrolling in the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: Students must be age 5 by December 2, 2011 and live within Sacramento, Amador, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Contra Costa, Solano, Sutter and San Joaquin counties.

**Q: Is my child eligible to attend the EGUSD Virtual Academy even if I do not live within the Elk Grove Unified School District?**

A: Families who do not reside within the geographic boundaries of EGUSD will need to obtain an Interdistrict Agreement. This agreement releases the responsibility of public schooling from one public school district so that the family can attend another public school district. Regardless of whether the student currently attends a public, private, or charter school, the family needs an approved Interdistrict Agreement in order to enroll in the EGUSD Virtual Academy.

To obtain an Interdistrict Agreement, an interested family must first go to the main office of the school district of residence to request the paperwork. Once completed and approved, the paperwork should be brought to room 114 of the Robert L. Trigg Education Center, 9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA, 95624.

**Q: Can my child take classes in the virtual academy while attending another school?**

A: No. Enrollment in the EGUSD Virtual Academy is full-time. Just as students cannot attend two elementary or two high schools at the same time, they would not attend the Virtual Academy and another school.

**Q: Where can I find more information on or register for the EGUSD Virtual Academy?**

A: For more information on or to register for the EGUSD Virtual Academy, visit <http://blogs.egusd.net/egva/>, call (916) 686-7747 or email EGVirtual@egusd.net.