



What is Omaha Virtual School (OVS)?

Omaha Virtual School (OVS) is a free, online learning program within Omaha Public Schools. It started in the 2016–2017 school year as Nebraska's first K–8 virtual school and now serves students in kindergarten through 12th grade. OVS is different from traditional schools. Students complete most of their learning at home with support from a parent or guardian, but they also attend required in-person classes once a week. This FAQ is designed to help families decide if OVS is the right fit for their student.

How do I enroll my student?

Families must complete an application to attend OVS.

- Applications open in **March/April** for the fall semester.
- If space is available, applications may reopen in **November** for January enrollment.

How do I apply?

Email the Omaha Public Schools, Student Placement Office and request a link to the application during the open application window. Studentplacement@ops.org.

How are students selected for OVS?

OVS is a good fit for students who:

- Are motivated and able to work independently
- Have an adult at home who can help every day (learning coach)
- Can attend in-person classes at least once per week
- Have reliable transportation to the learning center
- Are on track for graduation (high school students)
- Other factors may be considered, such as past attendance, behavior, credits earned (high school), and input from the student's current or previous school

Does OVS provide transportation?

OVS does **not** provide transportation or transportation vouchers. Families are responsible for providing transportation to school.

Is there a cost to attend?

No. Omaha Virtual School is **free** for students enrolled in Omaha Public Schools.

How is OVS different from fully remote learning?

OVS is a **blended learning program**, which means:

- Students attend weekly, in-person classes at the learning center
- Most learning happens at home with parent support
- There are live online classes scheduled throughout the week on Microsoft Teams.(1-2 times per week, per course)
- Teachers are available during scheduled support times
- The curriculum is rigorous and has high expectations
- Strong adult support at home is required
 - **Important to know:**
 - K-5 students may need up to **6 hours per day** of adult help at home
 - OVS does not offer transportation, sports, or music programs
 - Course options and counseling support are limited
 - OVS does not have a social worker on staff

What is blended learning?

In blended learning, students:

- Complete online lessons at home
- Work with a parent or guardian (called a **learning coach**)
- Attend in-person classes weekly for hands-on learning
- Attend live, online classes throughout the week with teacher and peers

In-person sessions may include labs, group projects, guest speakers, and other activities that support deeper learning and skill development.

Does my student need their own device?

No. OVS provides a **school-issued device** for each student.

What curriculum does OVS use?

OVS uses curriculum designed specifically for online learning that meets OPS and state standards:

- **K-5:** *FlexPoint*
- **Middle & High School:** *StrongMind*

Where do in-person classes take place?

Classes take place at the Omaha Virtual School Program located at 4315 Cuming Street.

How big are the classes?

- **K-5:** 10–15 students
- **6-8:** 15–20 students
- **9-12:** 18–20 students

How long are in-person classes?

Middle and high school students attend on **different days** due to space limitations.

- **Elementary School (K-5th grade):** One full day per week (9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.)
- **Middle School (6-8th grade):** One full day per week (9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
- **High School (9-10th grade):** One full day per week (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- **High School (11-12th grade):** No in-person day, required attendance once/quarter.

Are in-person classes required?

Yes. In-person learning is a **required and essential** part of OVS. Students complete hands-on projects, group work, and assessments that cannot be done online. Research shows this improves student success. If a middle or high school student falls behind, they may be **required** to attend additional in-person support days.

How is my student's progress monitored?

Student success depends on strong communication between the student, family, and teacher.

- Parents/guardians help monitor daily progress using pacing guides
- Teachers check student understanding during online lessons and in-person classes
- Teachers provide feedback and support for both students and learning coaches

Does my student have to take state tests?

Yes. Students must attend additional in-person days to complete required state testing.

What if my student needs extra help?

Teachers offer built-in support times each week. Students who qualify may also receive extra help in reading and math.

Does OVS offer special education services?

Yes. Special education services are provided **online** through live Microsoft Teams sessions.

Does OVS offer Pre-K?

No. OVS does not offer Pre-K classes.

What is my role as a parent or guardian?

Parents or guardians serve as the **learning coach** and play a very active role by:

- Helping students stay on track daily
- Monitoring progress in the online system
- Communicating regularly with teachers
- Providing transportation to in-person classes and testing

Can my student participate in sports or activities?

OVS does not offer its own athletics or music programs.

- **K-8 students** may participate at their neighborhood school
- Families are responsible for registration and transportation
- **High school students** must take at least half of their classes at the school where they play NSAA sports

How do students socialize?

Students connect through:

- Weekly in-person classes
- Group activities and projects
- Field trips and family events
- Online collaboration using Microsoft Teams

High School Specific Questions

What are the High School credit requirements?

High school students must be **on track to graduate on time**. OVS does not offer credit recovery. If your student attended school outside OPS and you are unsure about credit eligibility, please contact us at virtualschool@ops.org.

Can high school students recover credits at OVS?

No. OVS does not offer credit recovery. Students must already be on track to graduate. Students who need to make up credits may do so through an accredited program and then reapply to OVS.

Does OVS offer the same classes as traditional schools?

OVS courses meet OPS and state standards, but the high school course catalog is **limited**.

What if OVS doesn't offer a course my student wants?

Students may take classes at their home attendance school or programs like the OPS Career Center. The OVS counselor must be informed.

Do students receive a diploma?

Yes. Graduates receive a diploma from their OPS home school. Students living outside OPS receive a diploma from **Omaha North**.

How can I contact Omaha Virtual School?

 **Phone:** 531-299-0269

 **Email:** virtualschool@ops.org

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