



ACCESS Distance Learning Opens a New World of Possibilities for Alabama Students.

"ACCESS can show the world that metropolitan areas are not the only places that embrace technology. Students coming from all locales need to have adequate technology training and the ability to learn at their maximum potential. Maybe now the rest of the nation can spread the word about the not-so-secret success in the south."

— Converge

"I think they feel more confident in their ability. They are not intimidated. They see that they are as smart as other students, and it kind of broadens their experience."

— ACCESS Teacher

"I wasn't able to take AP History before, but with ACCESS Distance Learning, I've been able to increase the rigor of my course load."

— ACCESS Student

LEARN MORE AT

<http://accessdl.state.al.us>

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ACCESS Distance Learning:

Connecting to Online Classes



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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ACCESS
Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, & Students Statewide
DISTANCE LEARNING

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

WHY

Why ACCESS Distance Learning?

- Many rural and low-income schools have limited course offerings for students.
- Some schools find it difficult to offer all courses needed for the Alabama High School Diploma.
- Students in Alabama schools will benefit from additional Advanced Placement (AP) or college-level courses.
- Many schools cannot offer courses like physics, calculus, or Latin.



ACCESS Distance Learning Objectives:

- Provide access to Advanced Placement and/or dual credit courses.
- Provide access to additional elective courses.
- Effectively use existing resources and distance learning offerings, including sharing teachers between districts, to positively impact education statewide.
- Provide teachers with additional multimedia and technology tools to enhance instruction.
- Promote E-learning experiences for all students.

“(The confidence) is so important.
I mean, that’s something you keep throughout your life.”
– ACCESS Teacher/Facilitator

WHAT

What are the course delivery methods?

- **Web-Based Asynchronous Courses** utilize a Web site portal, multimedia content, and an Alabama-certified, highly-qualified teacher. Schools provide onsite access to computers with reliable Internet connections.
- **VCI Synchronous Courses** include real-time/ synchronous (two-way audio/ two-way video) instruction and an Alabama-certified e-teacher. To participate, schools must provide a reliable Internet-connected computer and access to an VCI equipped, H.323 standard school lab. Student schedules must also be compatible with those of delivery sites.
- **Blended Courses** utilize a combination of Web-based and VCI-based instruction.



HOW

How do I know if a student is a good candidate for ACCESS Distance Learning?

In general, students and educators rapidly adapt to the distance learning format. Many higher education institutions already have standard distance learning courses. The following are some of the characteristics of more successful Web-based learners:

- Independent Learners
- Computer Literate Individuals
- Effective Written Communicators
- Open Communicators (Willing to Ask for Help and Share Problems and/or Concerns)
- Interested Online Learners



“I am just back from HIGH FIVING a student who almost cried and from talking to his mother who did cry – he is the first in his family to graduate. He needed one class to walk across the stage and ACCESS gave him that opportunity. This is a wonderful program – it makes a difference in a big way. Thank you.”
– Facilitator, Uniontown, Alabama

