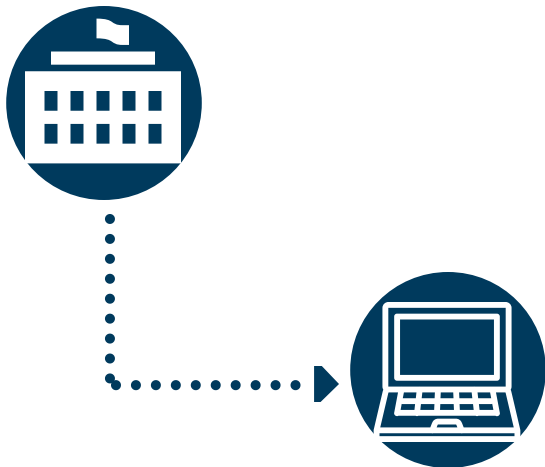




# At-A-Glance: Distance Learning

Distance learning allows students who are not physically present in the classroom to attend classes online, either synchronously (in real time), or asynchronously (at any time).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many districts and schools shifted to distance learning for a period of time to reduce the spread of the disease.



## Distance Learning in K-12

Districts may offer distance learning for various reasons, including credit recovery and for students with health-related issues. The State Board of Education has policies on distance learning for K-12 students in Tennessee public schools.

## Distance Learning in Higher Education

Many of Tennessee's public and private higher education institutions offer distance learning options, either individual courses or full online degree programs. Some programs allow students to complete their degree coursework entirely online, although students may be required to physically attend an orientation session or meetings on campus at some point during the program.

Institutions that offer distance learning programs in Tennessee are required by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to maintain school authorization and establish a physical presence in the state.

Tennessee, like most states, participates in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) initiative. Through SARA, institutions authorized to grant degrees in their home states may offer postsecondary distance learning programs to students in other states.