



Dear Parent,

The Michigan Legislature took action in 2013 to expand student access to digital learning options through Section 21f of the State School Aid Act. As a result, students enrolled in a public local district or public school academy in grades 6-12 are eligible to enroll in up to two online courses during an academic term – or more if parents, students, and school leadership agree that more than two are in the best interest of the child. Michigan is the seventh state in the U.S. to enable statewide choice at the course level through online learning options.

Online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. However, it is substantially different from face-to-face instruction and usually works best when thoughtful planning supports individual enrollment decisions. We encourage you to talk with your student to examine if online learning is a good fit for her or him.

To help you prepare for making the decision about whether your student has the characteristics to be successful learning online, we recommend you review the *Parent Guide to Online Learning* at http://media.mivu.org/institute/pdf/parent_guide_2013.pdf. The Guide examines how online learning supports next generation learning models, poses practical planning questions, provides a preparation checklist, offers advice for parents, and includes an online learner readiness rubric. This guide will help you prepare for a conversation with your son or daughter.

It is important to note that this option is limited to online classes under the district's eligible courses or that are listed within the state online course catalog available at <https://micourses.org>. While all of these classes have been reviewed from each sponsoring local district, these courses may not meet the rigor of courses for Westwood Community School District from a credit or graduation requirement perspective and are, therefore, subject to administrative approval.

Please direct your questions related to online courses to Mrs. Jenifer Martin-Green. She will be able to explain the process being used by Westwood Community School District to implement the new policies that expand online learning options for students.