

## **Virtual Accreditation: Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is accreditation, and are virtual schools required to be accredited?** Accreditation is a process by which schools are confirmed to operate in accordance with Indiana Legal and Academic State Standards by either the State of Indiana or a third-party accrediting agency recognized by the State of Indiana.

Virtual schools operated by public school corporations are required to be accredited in Indiana; however, virtual charter schools are only accredited if their authorizer is approved to grant virtual charters. For nonpublic schools, the State of Indiana currently does not accredit virtual nonpublic schools; however, third-party accrediting agencies may accredit virtual nonpublic schools. Please note that per Indiana law, **content delivery platforms, credit recovery programs, and homeschools cannot be accredited as schools.**

**How do I know if a virtual school is accredited?** A registry of accredited Indiana schools can be found, along with their accreditation status, at <https://inview.doe.in.gov>. You can also view a list of standalone, accredited virtual schools at <https://www.doe.in.gov/accountability/school-accreditation>.

Please note: in lieu of a standalone school, some school corporations offer virtual programs for a small group of students which may not appear on this list. **While the school corporation's virtual program itself is not considered a school, its students are enrolled and receive credit(s) through other accredited school(s) within the corporation.** Please contact your local school corporation for more information on what virtual programming they may offer.

**My child is enrolled in a credit recovery program or takes classes offered online from their local high school via a content delivery platform; are they accredited?** While credit recovery programs and content delivery platforms cannot be accredited as standalone schools, accredited schools often utilize their services as part of their curriculum and instruction and may have agreements in place to honor the credits earned through these programs and content delivery platforms.

For example, if ABC High School student Ashley is behind in credits she needs to graduate, ABC High School can encourage her to take credit recovery classes online with XYZ Credit Inc to take courses to make up her missing credits. After Ashley completes the XYZ Credit Inc courses, ABC High School would issue credit(s) to Ashley for those courses.

**If my child attends a nonaccredited virtual school, will the credits/diploma earned at the nonaccredited virtual school be accepted?** If you intend to transfer your child back into an accredited school prior to your child's graduation, you can contact your local school corporation(s) in advance to ask whether they will honor any credits earned at the nonaccredited virtual school towards an Indiana diploma. **Please be advised that this decision solely rests with the receiving school/corporation and is not subject to the Indiana Department of Education's authority or intervention.**

If your child intends to graduate and receive a diploma from a nonaccredited virtual school, please note that diplomas awarded by nonaccredited schools are not considered Indiana diplomas. As such, employers/postsecondary institutions (college, military, trade school, etc.) may decide not to recognize or accept the diploma as valid. **As with credits, this decision is not subject to the Indiana Department of Education's authority or intervention.**



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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Working Together for Student Success*

**If my child attends an accredited virtual school, will their credits/diploma automatically be accepted?** While it would ultimately be up to the school corporation, employer, or postsecondary institution (college, military, trade school, etc.) to decide, **credits/diplomas earned from accredited schools are accepted at a significantly higher rate than credits earned from nonaccredited schools.**

**How do I know if an out-of-state virtual school is accredited?** In order to determine whether a virtual school based outside the State of Indiana is accredited, you may contact that state's department of education to determine whether the out-of-state school meets their accreditation standards. If the out-of-state school meets the accreditation standards of its home state, keep this information readily available should there be any questions regarding the credits/diploma earned at this out-of-state school. Please note: while some virtual schools offer programming to students in multiple states, **out-of-state schools cannot be considered accredited Indiana schools without a physical location within the State of Indiana.**

**I have a question that isn't covered here; who should I contact?** Please contact [SchoolAccountability@doe.in.gov](mailto:SchoolAccountability@doe.in.gov) with any additional questions.

## Office of Accountability Virtual Accreditation Flowchart

This flowchart is intended to help parents determine whether a virtual school is accredited with the State of Indiana. For more information on accreditation, please review the FAQ section. To check the accreditation status of an Indiana school, please visit our website at <https://inview.doe.in.gov>.

