

Chester Online Learning

The mission of the Chester Online Learning Program is to provide tools for change and growth of students to significantly increase their performance in order to become productive citizens.

Equal Opportunity Statement

The Chester Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

The Chester Area School District provides equal opportunities with services to all individuals, including those with disabilities.

The Chester Area School District has designated the following person as the contact to coordinate efforts to comply with this requirement. Inquiries should be directed to:

Heath Larson, Superintendent
Chester Area School District
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Chester Online Learning

Where every student has a front row seat!

The Chester Online Learning Program has been in operation since 2004. There are three programs: Cyber School, Virtual School and High Plains Alternative School. Our three-pronged program was one of the first in the state of South Dakota and across the nation to offer an innovative, online, educational opportunity for students in grades nine through twelve who need an alternative setting. Students complete coursework both on-line and off-line and communicate with their teachers and fellow classmates via chat rooms, discussion boards, and email.

The goal of the Chester Online Learning Program is to provide students with a solid education through an alternative delivery method. Time and place take on new meaning when students have the flexibility to complete assignments at any time of the day and from any location. While our delivery method may be flexible, our curriculum is solidly aligned with rigorous South Dakota State Standards and is facilitated by South Dakota certified instructors.

Chester Online Learning Program

- **Cyber School**
- **Virtual School**
- **Alternative School**

Serving South Dakota Schools

Heath Larson—Superintendent
Dean Baumberger—Cyber Coordinator
Kristi Lewis—Business Manager
Todd Nelson—Board President

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2018-19

” to provide tools for change and growth of students... ”

The Chester Online Learning Program is a framework for change that is personal and encouraging. Student success is number one.



Class Offerings

English: I, II, III, IV,

Math:

Pre Algebra, Algebra I, II,
Geometry

Science: Physical Science, Biology,
Environmental Science

Social Studies: Geography, World
History, American History,
Psychology, Government/Economics

Computers: Computer Apps &
Advanced Computer Apps

Health/PE

Agriscience

Animal Science

Music Appreciation

History of Chester Online Learning

2005 - The concept of a “School Without Walls” was established with the start of Chester Cyber School. Chester Cyber School allowed students from Hutterite colonies, who previously ended formal education at the 8th grade, the opportunity to receive a high school education. The first year there were 75 full time students from 8 Hutterite colonies.

2009 - The program moved to its current location and united with High Plains Alternative to offer on-site education to students who would succeed in a more individualized setting.

2010 - The expansion was made to become a provider through the South Dakota Virtual School allowing students from any district in the state to take classes from the highly qualified Chester Online Learning teachers.

Today: Chester Online Learning encompasses all 3 programs of Cyber School, High Plains Alternative School and the Virtual School. Chester Online Learning has graduated 262 students through Cyber School, 76 students through High Plains Alternative and has worked with over 38 districts across the state through the Virtual School.

What is the Chester Online Learning Program? This is an alternative form of education that has been in operation since 2004. With the help of a highly qualified teaching staff, we are able to provide a specialized educational environment that offers students individualized flexible programs with less pressure. These classes are offered for \$250 per half credit or \$500 per credit hour.

Does it matter where students are located? Students can attend any school system and still be part of the online learning program.

How much time is required each day? This is a very flexible program. Chester Area School will be working with each individual district to meet their needs.

Who gets the FTE? Home school districts will receive the state aide and FTE. Students will receive diplomas from their home district.

What is Chester’s Goal? To invite districts who are in need of an alternative program to enroll their alternative education students in the Chester Online Learning Program.

How and when do students communicate with instructors? With their own computers, students will be able to work on classes and communicate with teachers 24/7.

What are the benefits of the Chester Online Program?

- No setup or training charge
- Schools don’t need to purchase slots in advance
- Schools can enroll students at anytime during the school year
- All classes are individualized
- All classes meet current standards
- An unlimited number of students and districts can be online at the same time.