

Computer-Based Course Clarification

There are several computer-based credit or non-credit generating methods for coursework utilized in Indiana as an alternative site method of instruction. This method allows students to gain credit based on the state standard approved by the district for graduation.

A facilitator is present to assist, accommodate, and tutor when needed. Students must be on the program for a determined amount of time in order to gain credit.

When teachers are hired to teach Core Academic Subject classes, Highly Qualified becomes a factor. On the other hand, students can participate in individualized learning experiences (whether for credit or not) that do not necessarily involve ANY Local Educational Agency teachers (e.g., semester abroad, distance learning, research projects and internships).

When a student takes computer-based coursework the district is allowing students to receive credit for successful completion of on-line courses. The **facilitators** for these courses **do not need to be** Highly Qualified; however, they do need to hold a valid Indiana teaching license. The **teacher granting the credit** (sending teacher or otherwise) **must be** Highly Qualified.

If a highly qualified teacher is not available locally to teach a certain Core Academic Subject, a LEA may use a Highly Qualified teacher who is located elsewhere to teach that Core Academic Subject through distance learning. Highly Qualified teachers may teach “virtual” classes through distance learning. For instance, rural LEAs might take advantage of broadband Internet connectivity to allow students to take advanced science, mathematics, or foreign language courses from Highly Qualified teachers throughout or outside of the State. The Highly Qualified teacher must be responsible for providing the direct instruction through distance learning and be accountable for monitoring student progress and assigning grades. Students may be assisted by on-site personnel responsible for supporting instruction provided by the Highly Qualified teacher.

When an instructor teaches a Core Academic Subject class where some or all of the instruction is provided via a computer program, whether the teacher needs to be Highly Qualified depends on the extent to which the computer and the teacher actually provide instruction. If the computer program is providing all of the instruction—lessons, assessments, grades, etc.—and the teacher is present in the classroom only to monitor student behavior, then the teacher does not need to meet Highly Qualified teacher standards. Such classes, where no teacher is actually providing instruction, are not courses in the traditional sense and as such do not require a Highly Qualified teacher.

If, however, the teacher is actually providing instruction that is only assisted or augmented by the computer program, then the teacher does need to be Highly Qualified. Highly Qualified teacher requirements apply when the teacher is employed to provide instruction in a Core Academic Subject.