



**Pearson Online & Blended Learning Pearson
Connexus (PCx) Customer Handbook
with
Teaching Services**

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Roles in Pearson Connexus (PCx)

Program Manager (PM) Role

Program Managers are the points of contact for the individual designated by the Customer as the Customer-designated Administrator(s) or Program Coordinator. Program Managers shall respond to Customer inquiries and support student achievement in the Education Products through ensuring smooth program start; championing fidelity of implementation; providing consultative support related to effective online program implementation, support schools in implementing best practices for monitoring data and identifying performance trends, and by acting as the Pearson OBL liaison for the Customer. The Program Manager will be assigned upon execution of the Statement of Work, Purchase Order or other form of service agreement.

Program Managers work directly with the schools Customer Administrator(s), sometimes referred to as the Program Coordinator(s), which is the main point of contact for the customer. Program Managers facilitate all communications from between the customer and the POBL Teachers. Program Managers do not work directly with Students or Caretakers. Students and Caretakers should contact their school or School Support for assistance.

Customer Administrator Role

There are two types of Customer Administrators: District and School Customer administrators. District Customer Administrators manage the district domain and can manage all school domains. School Customer Administrators manage the single school domain only. The task you wish to perform in Pearson Connexus will dictate the domain you need to access and the administrator type you use. For more information refer to the resources in Pearson Connexus including the [Manage User Domain Permissions](#) in Help.

Generally, there is one Customer Administrator at the district that serves as the primary point of contact with Academic Program Management. This single point of contact helps streamline communications.

Teacher Role

Teachers may be employed by Pearson or by the district. For detailed information regarding Pearson Online and Blended Learning Teaching Services teacher responsibilities, refer to the Teaching Services section of this document (p.18).

Teacher Author Role

This role provides the teacher with a higher level of administrative permissions focusing primarily on the ability to edit courses at the domain level.

Student Role

The Student role is assigned to those participating in courses and completing course content. This is the system default role assigned automatically to any user created.

Observer

Customers may grant the Observer role to caretakers, parents, or other individuals who may need to observe student progress. It is the customer's responsibility to grant this role to its users. More information about the Observer role can be found in [Add an Observer to a student](#).

Custom Roles

To learn more about creating custom roles refer to this article on [Roles and Permissions](#). Contact your PM or Training Specialist for assistance creating these.

School Year Cycle

Please review the [Pearson Connexus Customer Administrator School Year Cycle](#).

Communication Protocols

Program Coordinator/Program Manager Communications

Open and frequent communication are the cornerstones of good partnerships. Customer and Program Managers will decide on the most efficient method to communicate. Program Manager

response time: 1 business day to respond with status of request. Some troubleshooting may take longer. If a Program Manager is out of the office, they will have a message indicating who to contact with questions.

Pearson Connexus Support (Help Desk)

Contact the help desk when you have immediate concerns about the function of the platform or curriculum concerns.

- Phone: 844-597-3224
- Email: pcxsupport@pearson.com

Teacher Communications

Program Management and Teaching Services work together provide the best education to all students. As your primary advocate within the company, requests to communicate with Pearson OBL teachers or their managers should be directed to a Program Manager.

Communication with Sales

Sales identifies and works with customers to identify needs and obtain a contract that outlines the services and products that Pearson Online and Blended Learning (Pearson OBL) will supply over the term of the contract. Sales works closely with Program Management over the course of the contract to ensure those services are being provided appropriately and determine if any adjustments need to be made on either side.

Invoicing

Questions about Pearson Connexus Invoices can be emailed to poblsalesops@pearson.com.

Required Program Information

Customer administrators are required to enter information into the Pearson Connexus platform to ensure that Pearson OBL Teachers can provide the best possible service to our families. Program Managers can assist customer with where to input this information as needed. The partial list below includes the baseline required information to be entered into the system by customer when setting up courses.

- Grading scale: Please review the [Manage Course Settings](#) document to find out which grading scale is used to show student mastery.
- Automatic zeros: This can also be found in the [Editing Final Grades](#) document, under the Assign Zero Scores Automatically. This is recommended to keep students on track.
- School Dates: Please review the [Manage Domain Settings](#) document to find out how to enter the Blackout Dates for your school. These could include: Holidays, Winter/Spring Break, etc. This will keep work from scheduling for students on these dates if using continuous courses.

Adding Teachers to Courses

Pearson OBL Teaching Services will add teachers to courses they teach within two business days of students being added into the course.

If you are using your own district teachers, they should be enrolled in courses when students are added to courses.

Advisors

Advisors are provided by Pearson Teaching Services to some programs who enroll full time students in grades 6-12. The Advisor Teacher is an extra support for the students. *This may not apply to all schools. Please check with your Program Manager.

Creating Advisor Section

In order for students to be enrolled with an Advisor the Customer Administrator must create an Advisor Course and enroll students by following [these directions](#). It is recommended that this be completed within two weeks of each students' start date to allow them access to an Advisor. Teaching Services will assign the Advisor to your Advisor Course.

User Enrollments

To enroll users you have several options:

1. Enroll an individual user
2. Enroll Users in bulk
3. Enroll in batches using a .csv file

Refer to [Manage Course Enrollments](#) for additional help with enrolling users.

Also, your Program Manager will be able to assist with any additional questions.

Adding Teachers to Courses

Pearson OBL Teaching Services will add teachers to courses within two business days of students being added into the courses when the course type “COT” is selected. MyPearsonTraining has several resources describing course types as well as license types.

To view courses without teachers, use the Course Details report in the Other Reports icon within the platform.

Important Pearson Connexus Information

Training

The amount of training the customer receives is specified in the Statement of Work (SOW). If you have any questions on training for your district, please contact your sales representative or Program Manager.

DEMO Accounts

Customers can set up a demo course(s) and user(s) in their domain. Customers need to include DEMO in both the course and usernames. If a customer would like DEMO users, it is advised to work with the Sales Operations Team to set up a sandbox for customers who want parents and students to test out the platform. This helps avoid confusing demo users and active students in the platform. When creating these demo accounts please use the Observer license type.

Setting up and copying Courses within Pearson Connexus

Below are some helpful resources on MyPearsonTraining (MPT) to assist customers with copying courses. Customers should archive courses at the end of each school year and make new course copies aligning closely to start and end dates of that school year. It is not advised to copy the full course catalog as this can create confusion when it is time to enroll students.

- [Copy a course from a School Domain](#)
- [Course Management Tool](#)

Enrolling students in Courses within Pearson Connexus

For resources on enrolling students in courses, please view the links below.

- [Enroll Users in Course \(Individual and Bulk\)](#)
- [Enroll Users in Course \(Individual and Bulk\) Template](#)

Data and Reporting Services - Reports available to customers within Pearson Connexus

Gradebook

This report lists grade information (e.g., scores, failing, passing), time spent, and other summaries related to course activities and categories. Enter the course to specify the scope of the report.

- [Learn more about Gradebook Reports.](#)
- [Gradebook Reports: Glossary](#)

Student

This report lists student performance (i.e., score, learning objective proficiency), self-assessment results (regarding understanding, interest, and effort), time spent, and other important data related to the enrollments. Enter the course or user ID to specify the scope of the report. You can specify multiple dates or a date range to compare historical student data. For example, you might run a report that compares student performance from this week with last month.

NOTE: The performance of this report depends upon the number of enrollments being analyzed and the number of dates selected.

- [Learn more about Student Reports.](#)
- [Student Reports: Glossary](#)

Mastery

This report lists learning objectives and summarizes their mastery for enrollments in the specified entities. Enter the course or domain ID to specify the scope of the report. Provide start- and end-dates if you want results for a specific date range.

- [Learn more about Mastery Reports.](#)
- [Mastery Reports: Glossary](#)

User Activity

This report lists the user logins and time spent in courses for a domain.

- [Learn more about User Activity Reports.](#)

Test Analytics

This report shows the item analysis and proficiency details of an assessment.

- [Learn more about Test Analytics Reports](#)

Enrollments

The Enrollments Dashboard displays a quick view of student academic performance across all courses. This can be found under the Enrollments icon in the left-hand menu. This at a glance view helps guide teachers and administrators in determining next steps by evaluating the data and reaching out to students.

Tabs on the Dashboard

- Performance: Displays an overview of comprehensive scores for all students in courses.

- **Pace:** Provides an overview of how students are progressing through the course and highlights any students that may be falling behind.
- **Objective Mastery:** Displays the status of student mastery of course objectives and how students are performing on different lessons. This helps provide teachers and administrators with insight into where students are performing well and where they are struggling.
- **Newly Enrolled:** Lists students enrolled in courses within the last seven days so teachers can reach out to students who may need help getting started.

Student Enrollment Report

The Student Enrollment Report is on the dashboard and provides a quick snapshot of student courses, start and end dates, student status, teacher, etc. (You must be logged into a specific school domain to pull this report.)

Export as CSV File

Administrators and teachers can use this tool to export student information into Excel including Student Name, Newly Enrolled, Score (%), Last Activity, Course Name, Domain Name, Performance Status, Pace Status, IEP, 504, ELL, NCAA, Other Accommodations, IgnoreTimeLimitOnAssessments, and LimitNumberOnMC.

Course Details Report

This report was created to provide additional course details not visible within the Courses menu, such as public option selection, created date, created by (user ID), modified date, modified by (user ID), base ID (master course ID) and course metadata. The modified information reflects the last change made on the course, not historical changes.

User Details Report

This report was created to provide additional user details not visible within the Users menu, such as date of last password change, first login date, last login date, created date, created by (user ID), modified date, modified by (user ID), and user metadata. The modified information reflects the last change made on the user, not historical changes.

Curriculum

Each course in the curriculum is aligned to state and/or national standards, such as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), International Association for K–12 Online Learning (iNACOL) standards for online learning, and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Our assessments follow best practices and are designed to align to many state tests, as well as the next generation assessments that are used to prepare our students for college and careers.

Customers will be provided with a course list to set up their program each year. These course lists will vary from customer to customer depending on their state standards, teacher certification requirements and program requirements. While a customer might have been provided with the full catalog, the full catalog all courses might not be available in that state. The Teaching Services team cannot guarantee state certified teachers in all states or for CTE or Sign Language courses in any state.

Review the full [Course Catalog for Pearson Connexus](#) to see the different types of courses offered. [Course Codes, Pathways and Levels](#) is a helpful guide to further explain the various types of courses and if they are intended to be semester or year long. Please note each district can decide the duration that works best for their students.

Customers will work with their assigned Program Manager to make sure the correct courses have been imported into their location in Pearson Connexus. Pearson Connexus customers will be responsible for copying their own courses, but the Program Manager will need to guide them to make sure they are choosing the right courses to meet their needs.

Course Materials

Students may have materials shipped to them depending on the courses they are enrolled in. The majority of materials are online including most textbooks. Program Coordinators must include the students' mailing address (not a PO Box) and an email address when enrolling the student or materials will not ship to them.

Students and Parents can see the list of materials needed for a course by looking in the Course Guide or Course resources at the beginning of each course. Program Coordinators can request a copy of the Materials list with associated ISBNs.

When a student withdraws the fulfilment team will process returns for materials if applicable.

Course Customization

Customers have access to customize many aspects of the courses in Pearson Connexus. Pearson OBL is continually incrementally improving courses. If new or existing courses are revised to the point of requiring a new version of the course be copied, that information will be communicated to customers.

In addition, a customer should never modify a course or grades for students when a Pearson teacher is the teacher of record for a COT course. The Pearson teacher is responsible for the course and grading the student's work.

If a Program Coordinator would like to modify a course or the grades for students, they need to speak to the Program Manager who can review the request with the Teaching Services team.

LiveTutor

LiveTutor provides extra support to students in the four core secondary content areas and elementary students through individual or small group LiveLesson sessions. This service will be listed in the SOW if it has been purchased.

Requirements for Students

Hardware and Software Requirements

For the best user experience and highest quality performance, we recommend users access Pearson Connexus on a PC or Mac. Pearson Connexus is not an approved application for iPads.

The following supported browsers are recommended for students to record and playback audio:

- Google Chrome
- Mozilla FireFox
- Internet Explorer 11 or newer (most modern browser version strongly recommended)
- Safari (Mac only)

Pearson Connexus users should click here for details on [Technical Requirements & Allowable Links](#).

To access teacher made [Course Resources](#), students will need to access Google Documents.

Estimated Time to Complete Lessons

The amount of daily time a student spends working in an online course varies by grade level and the number of enrolled courses. When looking at each individual lesson, a rough estimate would be an hour for each elementary lesson, and an hour and half for each middle school and high school lesson.

Student Privacy

Pearson posts the Privacy Policies on the Pearson Connexus Login Page. Each can be viewed by selecting the links.

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

[Notice Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\) Notice](#)

Special Populations

NCAA

Many of Pearson OBL's high school core and elective courses are approved for meeting NCAA Eligibility Center requirements. Customers may offer its student athletes courses that may be used for NCAA initial eligibility by purchasing a package of services that complies with the requirements for the NCAA Eligibility Center approval of OBL's courses, and delivering those courses as set forth below.

In order for the Customer to have access to OBL's NCAA approved courses, the following must be in place:

- The Customer must indicate that the student is NCAA eligible during the enrollment process.
- The courses must be the courses listed on the NCAA website as Connections Learning/OBL approved courses.
- The courses must be delivered through Pearson Connexus by OBL's Certified Online Teachers.
- NCAA approval of OBL courses is dependent upon both OBL and the Customer abiding by a programmatic structure that adheres to the requirements set forth in the NCAA Guidelines for Pearson Online and Blended Learning Customers.
- If the Customer's program is not in full compliance with the Requirements, the student's NCAA eligibility, the Customer's access to NCAA-approved courses, and OBL's ability to continue to deliver NCAA-approved courses, may be jeopardized.

OBL takes very seriously both its own and the Customer's contractual obligations to meet the stated requirements. OBL reserves the right to terminate a contract if it believes that the Customer is violating the terms of this agreement to the degree that it may jeopardize OBL's NCAA approvals. In order for OBL to serve a student who is desiring NCAA courses, students must be identified with that designation in the Pearson Connexus platform in their Student Profile.

Customer Notification of IEP/504 Accommodations

Customer Administrators are responsible for noting in each student's user profile if they have an IEP or Section 504 plan. Details regarding customizations can be entered into the description section for each student. Without this information entered, Pearson OBL cannot and will not provide accommodations. For details regarding how Pearson teachers support designated students see Teaching Services Section of this guide.

Pearson Teaching Services

Mission Statement

The mission of the Pearson OBL Teaching Services team is to actively support customers, schools, and families through listening, assessing, innovative problem-solving, and advocacy to achieve their goals and achieve customer satisfaction.

Teaching Services Organization and Roles

Pearson Teacher

Pearson teachers will be assigned the POBL Teacher-Author role within Pearson Connexus.

Pearson Advisor

Programs enrolling full-time students in grades 6–12 with Pearson OBL teachers will receive an advisor in addition to subject-specific teachers.

Advisors are not state-certified teachers, but collaborate with teachers, students, and caretakers to ensure student success. The Advisor's role is to:

- ∄ Increase student success in courses through an emphasis on quality communications, effective use of data, and accurate documentation of efforts.
- ∄ Improve the student and family's overall online education experience and success through collaboration and coordination with Program Managers and content area teachers.

Advisor responsibilities include:

- € Monitoring student participation and performance;
- € Helping students navigate the Pearson Connexus platform and other Pearson technology; and
- € Facilitating communication between the student, and the subject matter teacher(s) as needed.

Full-time students in grades K-5 are not assigned an Advisor but work closely with their assigned core subject teachers to ensure success.

Teaching Services Contact Protocol

Students can contact their assigned teachers within the Pearson Connexus platform using WebMail. Students also have access to teacher phone numbers listed within Pearson Connexus. All inquiries to Teaching Services from customer staff or administration should be routed through the assigned Program Manager.

Teacher Calendar

The table below indicates key dates and holidays during the 2021-22 school year. Teachers are not available during the holidays and breaks listed below.

NOTE: This calendar may not reflect your own Vacation or Holiday calendar.

Key Dates	Date
First Day for Teachers	August 2, 2021
Labor Day	September 6, 2021
Columbus Day	October 8-11, 2021
Veterans' Day	November 11, 2021
Thanksgiving Break	November 24-26, 2021
Winter Break for OBL Teachers	December 22, 2021 - January 3, 2022
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 17, 2022

Presidents' Day	February 21, 2022
March Holiday	March 11, 2022
Spring Break	April 15-18, 2022
Memorial Day	May 27-30, 2022
Last Day of Spring courses for Students	June 22, 2022
Last Day for OBL Teachers	June 24, 2022

Key Student Dates

The table below displays dates to keep in mind when scheduling and enrolling students in courses staffed with Pearson Teachers.

Event	Date
Earliest possible start date for students served by a Pearson OBL teacher	August 2, 2021
Course end date for students who need a final grade or course marked complete prior to winter break (December 23 - January 3, 2021).	December 17, 2021
Last possible course end date for a student served by a Pearson OBL teacher for 2021-2022.	June 22, 2022

Pearson Teacher Certification and Course Assignment

Pearson Teacher Certification

When included in a customer's SOW, Pearson OBL Teaching Services provides state-specific certified teachers to teach course offerings (excluding American Sign Language and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses) in the states listed below:

Alabama (AL), Arkansas (AR), California (CA), Colorado (CO), Florida (FL), Georgia (GA), Indiana (IN), Massachusetts (MA), Michigan (MI), Minnesota (MN), Missouri (MO), Mississippi (MS), Ohio (OH), Oklahoma (OK), Oregon (OR), Pennsylvania (PA), South Carolina (SC), Tennessee (TN), Texas (TX), Virginia (VA), Washington (WA), and Wisconsin (WI).

Please communicate your specific program needs to your Program Manager at the start of each academic school year.

State-certified teachers are only available in specific states and per the SOW. Contact the Sales team for details.

Pearson Teacher Course Assignment

Pearson OBL Teaching Services will assign a teacher to courses with active students within two business days of a student being enrolled.

Pearson Teacher Course Assignment Changes

While Pearson OBL Teaching Services attempts to minimize any disruptions to students' learning, a need may arise that requires a change to the teacher assigned to a course. If this occurs, Teaching Services will notify a customer's Program Manager who will relay the information to the customer. When the new teacher is added or changed within a course, he or she will send a WebMail message to the affected students to introduce himself or herself.

Pearson Teacher Credentialing

If your program has specific reporting needs related to teacher licensure, please let your program manager know what information is required and when it is needed. Your Program Manager will work with Pearson OBL's Teaching Services and Business Compliance Services teams to provide this information to you through a secure communication to protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII). The standard turnaround time for credentialing requests is two weeks.

Pearson Teacher Responsibilities

Pearson OBL Teachers are credentialed teachers who are the teacher of record for the course in which they are sectioned. Teachers will:

- ≠ Send Welcome WebMail messages within 2-5 business days after the course start date
- ≠ Respond to WebMail messages and telephone calls within 1 business day. WebMail messages are logged automatically and Pearson OBL Teachers and Advisors document phone interaction and attempts in the Student Activity Tracker within Pearson Pearson Connexus.
- ≠ Host LiveLesson® sessions and provide recordings
- ≠ Provide direct instruction that is teacher-initiated or in response to student-initiated questions
- ≠ Grade assignments, provide grading feedback, and assign final grades
 - ⊘ Assessments: 2 business days
 - ⊘ Portfolios: 5 business days
 - ⊘ Final grades: 5 business days
- ≠ Moderate course discussions
- ≠ Follow protocols for synchronous communication and support related to student progress monitoring
- ≠ Implement Student Support Strategies
- ≠ Customers should review the [School Year Cycle Timeline](#) before the start of the school year and as important tasks arise.

Pearson OBL Teachers		Pearson OBL Advisors	
		Note: Requirements for having an Advisor	
Enrollment type	Action	Enrollment type	Action
First 2-5 days of Student Enrollment	Send Welcome WebMail messages	First 7 days of Student Enrollment	Send Welcome WebMail messages
After 21 Days	Synchronous & asynchronous student support	First 7 days	Welcome Calls - Early student engagement
After 21 Days	Synchronous support focusing on any assessment redos	After 30 days	Synchronous student contact for engagement support

After 21 Days	Moving student to complete		
Entire Month	Grading		
Month End	Curriculum-Based Assessments		

Communication Systems

Pearson Connexus contains several secure mechanisms for students and Pearson OBL staff members to communicate with one another. Because Pearson Connexus is a closed system, no communication can be sent to a user from an account outside of Pearson Connexus, including personal email addresses.

Synchronous Communication

Support provided through synchronous contact, or real-time interaction, is typically a one-on-one or small group meeting between a teacher and a student accomplished via telephone or LiveLesson session. During these meetings, teachers provide instruction, assessment, or facilitate other learning activities.

Synchronous support must include a two-way, real-time exchange of information, and can also be achieved through small group work. All synchronous support is logged immediately after the interaction within Pearson Connexus and includes details about the interaction. Customers with appropriate permissions are able to reference Student Activity Trackers at any time within Pearson Connexus.

Communication Expectations for Pearson Teachers

The table below outlines asynchronous and synchronous communication responsibilities for Pearson teachers.

Responsibility	Turnaround Time Expectation
Responding to student or caretaker WebMail messages or phone calls	Within one business day

Sending Welcome WebMail messages to students	Within two to five business days of course or student start date
Curriculum-Based Assessments (CBAs).	One per semester in designated courses
Ongoing Student Contact	Pearson teachers review weekly performance data to prioritize students to contact

Curriculum and Delivery

The curriculum is unquestionably a core strength of the learning experience for our students. Developed by curriculum experts who use high-quality, age-appropriate resources from leading print and online publishers, the rigorous curriculum supports 21st century readiness by engaging students in their ability to reason, be resilient, and become responsible for their learning. Our assessments follow best practices and align to many state tests, as well as the next generation assessments that are used to prepare our students for college and careers.

Pearson’s curriculum and delivery focus students and teachers on the most important work: correcting misconceptions and mastering standards and content.

There are other online models that focus on live screen time with a teacher who is delivering content and there are models that only have a set curriculum that students must navigate alone.

Pearson offers rigorous curriculum and content that students can access at their pace (especially for middle and high school students), and a teacher who is there to help them correct misconceptions, try again, and grow.

The curriculum is offered as a linear progression which is displayed in students’ planners each day. Students have quick check assessments, unit assessments, and portfolio assessments that they must complete to progress through their courses.

Course Modifications

The information below provides details on how Pearson teachers may modify courses they teach in Pearson Connexus.

Teaching Services Initiated Modifications and Course Reductions

Pearson teachers may initiate course modifications for the following reasons:

- € to implement student accommodations in accordance with program-supplied documentation for students with IEPs or Section 504 Plans

- € to reduce or adjust course content for late-enrolled students
- € to better personalize the academic experience for students who demonstrate mastery of key course objectives or to meet the needs of learners who require modified course/activity objectives

Pearson teachers may use their discretion to alter lessons and/or assessments to verify student mastery. Course modifications will be documented in the Student Activity Tracker with a detailed and academically-focused explanation. Course modifications can be made for individual students, groups of students, or for the entire course as needed. With the exception of IEP/504 accommodations, students who are eligible for NCAA may not receive individual course modifications, alternative assessments, or instructional resources that are not available for all students in the same course.

Students who enroll after the course start date may qualify for course reductions. Generally, teachers reduce course content up to 20% in a course for late enrolling students. Exceptions may be made, by Program or District Coordinators, to reduce more than 20% of the course. Requests for these additional course reductions should be sent to the Program Manager. Course reductions will be documented in the Student Activity Tracker.

Content removed from a course by skipping lessons may still appear on the cumulative assessments for that course. Students may still access skipped content.

*AP courses are ineligible for course modifications and course reductions.

Course Resources

Students have access to teacher-created course resources for each course. The course resources can be accessed via the Course Resource Folders and are introduced through the Welcome WebMail message. Teachers regularly update and maintain the resources with links for students.

*Course Resources documents are housed on individual teacher Pearson Educator Google Drives. Students must have the functionality to navigate to Google documents to have access to these resources.

LiveLesson Sessions

The purpose of LiveLesson sessions is to facilitate learning experiences for students and to provide enrichment beyond the content within our online lessons.

Pearson OBL teachers utilize LiveLesson sessions to address a wide range of student intervention and enrichment needs, including but not limited to:

- One-on-one or small-group tutoring

- Literature discussions
- Facilitation of cross-curricular connections
- Opportunities to demonstrate mastery in a variety of ways
- Differentiated learning activities for struggling students
- Participation in activities that promote real-world application of skills
- Unit test preparation and review for end-of-course exams
- Collaborative learning experiences with peers
- Language practice opportunities for world language courses
- Building relationships, developing rapport, and study skills needed to foster learning in an online environment

LiveLesson sessions covering enrichment topics will be scheduled once each week for core content area courses (math, science, social studies, and language arts), and will be taught by a content area expert who may or may not be the assigned Teacher of Record. The frequency of scheduled LiveLesson sessions for elective courses will vary by course. Student pacing and course schedules vary for students. For this reason, the standard LiveLesson schedule may not fully synchronize with a student's course work. Students should consult their teacher if they find themselves out of pace with the LiveLesson topics being offered. Students can also consult a library of asynchronous, on-demand instructional videos and teacher-created resources targeting specific course concepts. This allows students to access video-based instructional support when needed, at a time that best suits their learning schedule.

LiveLesson sessions are not required for students and are not graded, with the exception of Gifted and Talented/Honors Literature Study which are required and graded. A LiveLesson session schedule for each course will be provided to students enrolled in the course.

The LiveLesson model facilitates learning opportunities for students by providing:

1. Dedicated access to credentialed content-area teachers who are focused on creating and delivering high-quality learning experiences.
2. Increased interaction and engagement with teachers who will continue to support students through the use of WebMail communication, small group sessions, LiveTutor sessions, office hours, and phone calls.
3. More focused opportunities for struggling students to receive differentiated support and instruction on an individual basis, or in small groups.
4. A library of on-demand LiveLesson recordings that students can consult as needed.

The LiveLesson delivery model builds on our dedication to providing students with high-quality, virtual instruction by offering greater flexibility for students, providing individualized support, and continuing to ensure that all students have regular access to a content-area expert.

Student Participation

Course Pacing and Participation

Students enrolled in a course taught by a Pearson teacher must meet all requirements for completing lessons as set forth by their program, school district, or state. It is the responsibility of the program to take action when a student is not in compliance with any mandated attendance or participation requirements. Although there is more flexibility in the Pearson taught courses than in a traditional school setting with regard to instructional time and pace, students are still expected to maintain a pace that will allow them to complete their course by the course end date. When Pearson Connexus Planners are in use, all students should complete assigned lessons as scheduled and submit specified assessments on or before the due dates.

Course extension requests for students can only be made by the Program. When an extension is granted, it is the Program's responsibility to notify students of the extension and advise them to contact their teachers to plan for success.

Support for Students in Escalation

Program Coordinators work with the Program Manager to provide administrative and academic support on behalf of students (exact duties are defined by the school district). In general, Program Coordinators monitor and motivate student learning, provide organizational and instructional support on an individual basis, and continually assess their students' progress.

Student performance data is reviewed by Teaching Services staff each week and appropriate student support strategies are implemented.

It is the responsibility of the customer to take action as permitted and/or required by state law, including referral to appropriate agencies for truancy.

Student Support

Strategies to Support Student Mastery

Below are strategies Pearson Teachers may utilize to support struggling students to move towards content mastery. While this is an extensive list of support strategies, this is not an exhaustive list.

- Provide feedback and resources to support student revision and relearning to reach mastery for assignments that have a score below 70%.

- Provide opportunities for student to complete assessments in an alternate format, (i.e. PowerPoint, verbal recording, visual presentation, or modified, segmented portfolio assignments).
- Send weekly check-in WebMail messages that highlight important concepts or standards.
- Have student print hard copies of assignments to encourage accuracy.
- Host a small group via LiveLesson with small groups of struggling students to review for tests or complete portfolios in order to stay on track with lesson completion.
- Provide individual or small group subject area support via LiveTutor, LiveLesson, or phone.
- Structured LiveLesson sessions to facilitate guided note taking.
- Provide students with guided notes or course resources prior to the LiveLesson.
- Provide the opportunity for students to complete an assessment orally if appropriate.
- Provide student with study guides for assessments.
- Create an individualized Student Success Plan, which includes specific action items and due dates.
- Provide the student with LiveLesson recordings prior to major test/portfolio item for additional support.
- Encourage meetings between student and assigned Advisor

Pearson Teacher Assessment Policies

Courses are comprised of a variety of assessment types to gauge student mastery of course concepts, skills, and standards. Graded assessment types may include sample work, practice, reflections, discussions, portfolios, quizzes, tests, and exams.

Assessment Retake Policy

Pearson teachers use the following retake/correction policy, along with their professional discretion, as a guide for helping students learn and achieve success. Students should consult the course information in the Course Resource Folder to view specific policies that pertain to their courses.

Homework, Practice, and Portfolio item assessments can be corrected/resubmitted, after synchronous or asynchronous consultation with a teacher, for a maximum of three attempts per assessment (including original submission). Additional correction opportunities are based on teacher discretion. Students cannot retake tests, quizzes, or quick checks; however, students may work with teachers to earn back additional points. This policy will be followed unless otherwise specified by the Academic Program Management team or noted in the Program Guide.

Our shared goal is student mastery of course material. As students move through the course, teachers may employ the following strategies to ensure students have mastered course material and arrive at the end of the course with a passing grade:

1. Teachers generally do not reset objective assessment items. There are two exceptions to this policy:
 - a. Confirmed technical issues (parent/student has contacted support and it is reflected in the Student Activity Tracker).
 - b. Accommodations listed in a student's IEP/504 Plan.
2. Subjective Assessments: After receiving constructive feedback, subjective assessments (i.e., portfolio items, essays, short answer questions, lab reports, PE logs) can be re-submitted via WebMail message for a maximum of two additional attempts to improve the original submission. Credit can be awarded directly in the original assessment item.
3. Unit Tests: Students who fail a unit test (not applicable for midterms or final exams) may initiate contact with their Pearson teachers to inquire about additional opportunities to demonstrate mastery and earn credit. One option is to complete a concept-driven Curriculum-Based Assessment. Teachers can administer CBAs via LiveLesson or phone call to evaluate student mastery and assign points in an associated assessment item for credit. Another option is for students to review teacher-prompted study materials that address learning gaps, and then complete an alternative assessment. The alternative/custom assessment may be a written assignment or it may be conducted via LiveLesson or phone. CBAs are not, by themselves, graded assessments included in a student's Grade Book.

Any assessment resets must be documented in the Log.

4. Course Reductions: Unless otherwise notified by the program teachers may drop up to 20% of course content on an individual student basis, if warranted. However, reduction of course content does not apply to students who are NCAA eligible, and is usually not applied to AP courses.

Curriculum Based Assessments (CBAs)

Teachers use synchronous contacts to gauge student mastery through curriculum based assessments. These formative assessment conversations provide valuable feedback to teachers and Caretakers about areas of strength and areas needing additional support or intervention.

CBAs are synchronous, real-time, communications between students and teachers to gather information on students' understanding of concepts. They are the most common informal assessment method teachers use with students. While students are not graded on CBAs, teachers will reach out to students when a CBA is appropriate, and students are expected to respond to teachers. If students fail to respond to a teacher's effort to complete a CBA, the teacher will have limited knowledge about how to best assist and support the student.

Grading

Students in Pearson OBL courses will receive a final course grade from their Pearson OBL teacher in Pearson Connexus. The student's official transcript will be maintained by their school/program.

Only the assigned Pearson OBL teacher is permitted to enter the final grade for the student's course within Pearson Connexus. Programs may add weighting for Advanced Placement or Honors courses to these grades, based on their own policies, when transferring completed grades into the student's official transcript outside of the Pearson Connexus platform.

As they progress through their courses, students will engage in many different types of formal and informal assessments. All assessment types found in courses are described in the [Pearson Assessment Types](#) guide, though not all courses or grade levels will contain all of these assessment types. Note also that some assessment types count more heavily towards the student's final course grade than others. For example, the grade a student earns on a Unit Test or Portfolio has a bigger impact on the student's final grade than a Quiz does. Additionally, grade weights vary by course. Students are able to view grade weights as they are posted via course landing page.

Customers have the ability to customize their grading scale to meet state, district, or program needs. Pearson OBL will use the grading scale established by the program (see required program information). This information must be provided to the Program Manager in order to be incorporated within Pearson Connexus.

Final Grades in Pearson Connexus

When a student reaches their course end date, their enrolment status will show as "Expired". Teachers will finalize the student's grade within five business days of the student's end date by doing the following:

- ≠ complete all grading
- ≠ enter zeros for any incomplete assessments
- ≠ set the student's section stage to "Completed"

Any special requests regarding an expedited turnaround time must be communicated to Program Managers at least 10 days prior to the end date.

The Grade Book

The Pearson Connexus Grade Book is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week (excluding regularly scheduled maintenance) and always reflects the student's current status in each course in which s/he is enrolled. The Grade Book will display the overall grade in each course, grades on assessments within each course, and the number and percentage of assessments and activities the student has completed.

Exceptional Students

Providing Special Education services is the responsibility of the school district, who remains the local educational agency (LEA). However, Pearson teachers are equipped to implement virtual accommodations in addition to differentiated instructional approaches to students with disabilities to meet students' IEP/504 plans supplied by the Customer.

The following is a list of available Pearson teacher accommodations. Please note that specific IEP/504 plan accommodations must be included in the student's profile in Pearson Connexus prior to any implementation from Teaching Services. A student's IEP or 504 plan must be uploaded into Pearson Connexus for the Pearson teacher to review.

1. Assessment corrections after reteach with the Pearson teacher for content mastery
2. Reduction of academic task size as appropriate
3. Extended time on assignments/assessments
4. Completion of assignments/assessments in alternate formats
5. Supported note taking
6. Creation of study guides and assistance preparing for assessments
7. Other accommodations reasonably able to be provided in accordance with the student's IEP/504 plan.

It is important to note that all students are offered additional support from their classroom teacher and/or advisor through small groups or 1:1 meetings during teacher/advisor office hours.

Please note that Pearson Connexus also includes some technological resources to ensure access for students with disabilities and English Learner (EL) students. These resources may include varying speed of response, use of sound, read aloud text, and multiple language information displays appropriate for targeted learners.

Pearson Teacher Participation in the IEP Process

Requests for Teacher Input on IEP or 504 Plans

Programs often need content area teachers to provide information about student progress as documented in the student's IEP or 504 plan. Programs must send requests for any updated student progress information to their assigned Pearson OBL Program Manager. The Pearson OBL Program Manager will then communicate with Teaching Services.

Programs can expect responses to be returned after five business days of Teaching Services receiving the request. Unless otherwise arranged, Teaching Services will provide responses to the questions listed on the [Teacher Feedback Form for Exceptional Students](#). Teacher input can be

provided to programs in a variety of ways based on program preference, such as a PDF document or spreadsheet.

Participation in IEP or 504 Meetings

When Pearson teachers are approved to attend IEP or 504 meetings, they will be prepared to contribute to the discussion. There will be a Teacher Manager present when teachers participate in IEP meetings. Participation in IEP and 504 meetings will be logged immediately by the Pearson Teacher after the meeting ends. Teachers should be given the opportunity to provide input first during the meeting and then be excused in order to return to teaching responsibilities. The Teacher Manager attending the meeting will remain to answer any general questions.

Academic Integrity

When enrolled in a course with a Pearson teacher, students are expected to adhere to the Pearson Honor Code. The customer and Pearson are responsible for supplying the Pearson Student Honor Code to students. If a student violates the [Pearson Student Honor Code](#), Pearson teachers will consult the appropriate Academic Integrity Policy (i.e. a district or program policy, or the Pearson policy). As outlined under [Required Program Information](#), programs or districts must provide a copy of their academic integrity policy if they choose for Pearson to implement that policy.

Pearson Student Honor Code Infractions and Procedures

Demonstrating academic integrity and upholding the Honor Code is an expectation of every student. Pearson teachers are encouraged to use plagiarism detection software (Unicheck is included in Pearson Connexus) for written responses such as essays, portfolios, and discussions when plagiarism and/or cheating are suspected. If a Pearson teacher detects a violation of the Honor Code on an assessment (i.e. test, quiz, discussion, lab, essay, or any other portfolio assignment), he or she will notify the student and caretaker by WebMail. All instances of Honor Code violations will be documented in the Discipline Data View. It is the responsibility of the program or district to take any disciplinary action in addition to what is listed below, once notified by Pearson. Repeated offenses could result in additional disciplinary action taken by the student's local program or district, and could result in removal from the course if determined by the program or district.

A student forfeits the opportunity to regain full or partial credit on any Honor Code violations if the course has ended. The customer may consult the Program Manager to discuss opportunities for extensions.

First Offense

The first time a student is determined to have plagiarized or cheated, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assessment temporarily, and a WebMail message from the teacher outlining the offense and the steps the student can take next to regain credit. Once the student shows understanding of plagiarism, cheating, and the subject matter, the student may regain up to full credit by re-submitting the assessment or equivalent. If a student's first Honor Code violation occurs on a final exam, the student will receive a zero for the questions related to the violation and not be able to revise any of the work that had the violation.

Second Offense

The second time a student is determined to have plagiarized or cheated, he/she will receive a grade of zero for the entire assessment and a WebMail message from the teacher outlining the offense, and steps that the student can take to regain credit. The student must arrange a time to meet with the teacher synchronously to review and show understanding of the Honor Code and subject matter. Once the student demonstrates understanding, the student may regain partial credit, up to 50% of the assignment's total score. If a student's second Honor Code violation occurs on a final exam, the student will receive a 50% reduction of their total test score and not be able to revise any of the work that had the violation. For example, if the student earned 80% on the final, including a zero for the question(s) in concern, the student receives a score of 40% for the final.

Third and Subsequent Offenses

The third time a student is determined to have plagiarized or cheated, he/she will receive a zero and will not have the opportunity to redo the question/assignment. If a student's third or subsequent Honor Code violation occurs on a final exam, the student will receive a zero for the full test and not be able to revise any of the work that had the violation. Such repeated offenses of academic dishonesty by a student may result in a recommendation by Pearson OBL that the student be considered a repeat violator of program or district policy. The program or district will be responsible for addressing this violation.

Conflict Resolution

Pearson Teaching Services strives to provide exceptional customer service by ensuring that students, parents, and the customer have a clear path to follow when challenges arise with a Pearson teacher. If a customer receives a complaint about a Pearson teacher from either a student or parent, the customer should notify their Pearson OBL Program Manager. The Program Manager will work with Pearson OBL Teaching Services to investigate the complaint and find a resolution.

Student Conduct

Note: Any reference to “bullying” includes cyberbullying, whether or not specifically stated.

It is the policy of Pearson OBL Teaching Services that all students and employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The policy below reflects Pearson OBL’s standard policy and expectations. However, this policy may be amended as needed to reflect specific program or district partner policies.

Definitions

The following definitions are intended to provide guidance in assessing whether a particular behavior is a prohibited behavior. They are not exhaustive in their scope and are not intended to replace the intuition of the individual. When in doubt as to whether or not a particular suspected behavior is a prohibited behavior, you are urged to rule on the side of caution and report your concerns to the appropriate authority, as provided for in this policy.

Bullying (including cyberbullying) – systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by a student or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to:

1. Teasing
2. Social Exclusion
3. Threat
4. Intimidation
5. Stalking
6. Physical violence
7. Theft
8. Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
9. Public or private humiliation
10. Destruction of property

Cyberbullying – bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person, or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the

creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Harassment – any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying and harassment also encompasses:

1. Retaliation against a student or school employee by another student or school employee for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation.
2. Perpetuation of conduct listed in the definition of bullying or harassment by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional or physical harm to a student or school employee by:
3. Incitement or coercion
 - a. Accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the district school system
 - b. Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying or harassment

Cyberstalking – to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

Hazing – the use of rituals and other activities involving harassment, bullying, cyber-bullying, intimidation, abuse or humiliation for the purpose of initiating a person or persons into a group, regardless of whether such person(s) consented to or otherwise acquiesced in the at issue behavior(s) and action(s).

Intimidation – a course of behavior that instills fear or a sense of inadequacy.

Violence within a dating relationship – any behavior by a student exhibited towards that student’s dating partner that is an attempt to gain and/or maintain power and/or control over a dating partner through violence, threats of violence, and/or physical, verbal, psychological, and/or mental abuse.

Sexting – Knowingly using a computer, or any other device capable of electronic data transmission or distribution, to transmit or distribute to another minor any photograph or video which depicts nudity and is harmful to minors. Knowingly possessing a photograph or video that was transmitted or distributed by another minor as described above.

Prohibited behaviors include all of the above.

Pearson expects students to conduct themselves as appropriate for their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and staff, the educational purpose underlying all Pearson activities.

Pearson believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, caretakers, staff, and program or district members producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for Pearson on the part of students, and staff. Because students learn by example, Pearson staff, and program or district administration, will demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying or harassment.

Pearson upholds that bullying or harassment of any student or Pearson employee is prohibited:

- A. During any education program or activity conducted by a public K-12 educational institution;
- B. During any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity;
- C. Through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of a public K-12 education institution within the scope of the school, meaning regardless of ownership, any computer, computer system, or computer network that is physically located on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored program or activity; or
- D. Through the use of data or computer software that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school, if the bullying substantially interferes with or limits the victim's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school or substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
- E. The above section (D) does not require a school to staff or monitor any non-school-related activity, function, or program.

Concluding whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all of the facts and surrounding circumstances. The physical location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action. Pearson will notify programs or districts of any violation. Consequences for any infraction are the responsibility of the program or district. Pearson expects that districts and programs will take appropriate remedial action for students who commit acts of bullying or harassment.

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee found to have committed an act of bullying or harassment may be disciplined in accordance Pearson policies, procedures, and

agreements. Additionally, egregious acts of harassment by certified educators may result in a sanction against an educator's state issued certificate.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of harassment, intimidation, bullying, dating violence, or any other prohibited behavior will not be tolerated, independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of school policy, and suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as prohibited behavior. Making intentionally false reports about prohibited behavior will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

This policy shall not be interpreted as infringing upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused another as a means of bullying or harassment range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as outlined in this Supplement. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused another as a means of bullying or harassment may be disciplined in accordance with Pearson policies, procedures, and agreements. Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a visitor or volunteer, found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused another as a means of bullying or harassment shall be determined by the school administrator after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, including reports to appropriate law enforcement officials.

Complaints

The Director of Teaching Services or a designee is responsible for receiving complaints alleging violations of this policy. All Pearson OBL staff are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the Director of Teaching Services or designee. Students and caretakers are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to a Pearson OBL staff member or program or district representative.

Pearson OBL will report all reported incidents to the program or district coordinator through the Program Manager. Likewise, program or district coordinators should communicate concerns of any violation involving Pearson OBL staff through the Program Manager. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or harassment will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, learning or working environment, or work assignments.

Any written or oral reporting of an act of bullying or harassment shall be considered an official means of reporting such act(s). Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Student Discipline

All students enrolled in Pearson courses are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the policies set by their school and the Pearson OBL codes of conduct set forth in this Handbook. Caretakers are expected to cooperate with school staff in reinforcing this conduct with their students. When student conduct expectations are violated, Pearson will work with the customer to implement the disciplinary measures reflected in this document. Pearson students are also guaranteed due process as required by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Discipline Measures

There are three levels of disciplinary measures used by Pearson OBL in the absence of a clear disciplinary process provided by the customer: 1) Warning, 2) Suspension, and 3) Expulsion. Each level has associated conduct breach definitions and corresponding disciplinary actions that may occur.

1. Warning

Students who receive warnings from Pearson OBL have documented communication with their Caretaker(s) and a Pearson OBL staff member. The incident is formally documented in writing and becomes part of the student's Pearson OBL record. Students do not have a disruption in schooling and are not removed from any course.

Warnings are issued when a student demonstrates a breach of expected conduct but not as serious as those listed under the suspension and/or expulsion categories in this Handbook.

2. Suspension

When a student is recommended to the customer for suspension, he or she will be temporarily restricted from accessing Pearson Connexus once the approval is given by the customer. The length of a suspension is determined by the customer and the Pearson OBL Director of Teaching Services or their representative (up to 10 days at a time). A suspension is documented in writing and becomes part of a student's permanent Pearson OBL record.

During a period of suspension as defined by the customer and Pearson OBL Director of Teaching Services, a student's permission to log on to and/or use parts of Pearson Connexus is restricted. Student access to course content, assessments, WebMail, Course Resource Folders, and/or all of Pearson Connexus may be revoked. In such cases where the student's access is completely

revoked, the Caretaker is responsible for logging on to Pearson Connexus and obtaining the student's assignments, responding to WebMail, and recording assessment responses for the student. The student should continue with his or her schoolwork during a suspension.

Violations that may lead to a recommendation for suspension include, but are not limited to, the following breaches of conduct:

Cheating on tests or daily work: A student who knowingly participates in copying, using another's work, and representing it as his or her own (for example, transmitting work electronically for another student's use), or who provides other students with test answers, answer keys, or otherwise uses unauthorized materials in an assignment or assessment situation.

Plagiarism: A student's use of another person's words, products, or ideas without proper acknowledgement of the original work with the intention of passing it off as his or her own. Plagiarism may occur deliberately (with the intention to deceive) or accidentally (due to poor referencing). It includes copying material from a book, copying-and-pasting information from the Internet, and getting family or friends to help with coursework.

Abusive conduct: A student who uses abusive language or engages in abusive conduct in the presence of others either in person or electronically/virtually.

Bullying: A student that repeatedly engages in negative actions against another student in an attempt to exercise control over him or her.

Harassment: A student who demonstrates verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to an individual's sex, race, color, national origin, age, religious beliefs, ethnic background, or disability that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from Pearson's programs that: 1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating or hostile environment, 2) unreasonably interferes with an individual's educational performance, or 3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities.

Vandalism: A Student who intentionally damages or destroys Pearson property or records (physical or electronic). In these instances the school reserves the right to contact the proper law enforcement agency(ies).

Theft and robbery: A student who takes money or other property (physical or electronic) with the intent to deprive another person or Pearson of that property. The threat or the use of force or violence is considered a serious breach of conduct. In these instances the Pearson would reserves the right to contact the proper law enforcement agency.

Sexual harassment: A student who subjects another to any unwelcome sexual advances including verbal harassment, unwelcome or inappropriate touching, or suggestions, requests, or demands for sexual favors.

Violation of acceptable use policy: Students who violate the acceptable use policy in one form or another are open to recommendations for disciplinary action, including suspension.
Repeated violation of any disciplinary issues.

3. Expulsion

When a student is expelled, he or she is separated from Pearson OBL for an extended period of time, or permanently, for disciplinary reasons. An expulsion is documented in writing and becomes part of a student's Pearson permanent record.

Violations that may lead to recommendations for expulsion include, but are not limited to, any behavior that indicates that a student is a serious threat to the safety of others, possession of firearms, dangerous weapons, bombs, or explosives, criminal behavior, arson, under the influence of or possession of, or sale of controlled substances or paraphernalia. Recommendations for suspensions or expulsions for children designated as exceptional follow all appropriate state and federal policies, regulations, and laws.

Grievance Policy

Pearson OBL is committed to ensuring customer satisfaction and takes its responsibilities for the provision of educational services to each student very seriously.

These responsibilities are set forth in the customer Scope of Work and the Pearson OBL Handbook. Pearson OBL Teaching Services will also ensure students adhere to their responsibilities stated in this Handbook, and when necessary, recommend disciplinary action to the customer.

Caretaker Grievance and Resolution

If a Caretaker has concerns with Pearson OBL's action or performance on any of the above-defined responsibilities or disciplinary actions, he or she has the following recourse options available:

Addressing Issues

For routine issues or for a first attempt at redress, call or send a WebMail message to the student's teacher.

Grievance Process

1. A Caretaker with the grievance must report the dissatisfaction in writing, and submit it to the student's teacher or the customer, (or other appropriate Pearson OBL staff member, as necessary). If the grievance is submitted to the customer, the Program Manager will provide it to Pearson OBL Teaching Services. All parties involved must be appropriately defined, and the concern must be clearly outlined.
2. The recipient of the grievance must review the concern with his or her supervisor and respond to the Caretaker within three (3) school days.
3. If the original recipient did not resolve the grievance, the Caretaker should request a meeting with the customer and the recipient's supervisor and notify the customer. The supervisor should investigate the matter, and schedule a meeting with the Caretaker, the student, if necessary, and any other staff member, the customer, if necessary, within five (5) school days.
4. If the school has not been able to address the Caretaker's concern through the grievance process set out above, or if there has not been a prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint prohibited by Title IX and Section 504, the Caretaker can contact the Customer for further recourse.

Family Support

Students and Observers do not need advanced computer skills to be successful in Pearson courses. Programs can grant caretakers and parents the Observer role, which provides access to the Pearson [Family 411](#) program. On this family resource center, caretakers will find helpful learning tools, such as the following:

- Orientations
- Interactive tutorials
- How-to guides

Appendix 1: Florida VIP Provider Policies

Florida VIP Approved Provider Status and Requirements

Connections Education of Florida, LLC ("CE of FL"), a division of the global learning company Pearson, is an approved Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) provider in Florida. The [Florida state statute](#) governing virtual providers lists the legal requirements for all providers. As an approved

provider, Connections Education of Florida, LLC complies with these requirements, including but not limited to maintaining a website listing the required [Disclosures](#).

This appendix to the Pearson Customer Handbook for Teaching Services serves to document the Florida-specific requirements for CE of FL's District VIP partnerships. If any policy in the main portion of this Handbook appears to conflict with any of the Florida policies in this Appendix, the policy in the Appendix shall be considered the effective policy for Florida.

In addition to the expectations outlined in the Handbook and this Appendix, Florida customers may request to have special programmatic requests included in their SOW or contract. The Florida Academic Program Manager will work closely with District VIP partners to ensure that all contractual and compliance obligations are met.

Contact Information

Connections Education of Florida, LLC District VIP Provider Administrator:

April Greeson
april.greeson@pearson.com
Phone: 561-444-8048

Mailing Address:

2145 Metrocenter Blvd.
Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32835

Contact information for tech support, teachers, etc. is found in the main portion of this Handbook.

Anti-Discrimination and Non-Sectarian Policies

Practices that exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of ethnic group identification/ethnicity, marital status, race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, physical or mental disability, athletic performance, language proficiency in English or another language, prior academic achievement, or age in the admission to, participation in, or receipt of the services under any of the Pearson and its affiliated entities' educational programs and activities, or in employment practices, are strictly prohibited. Age limitations may only be imposed in response to mandatory state-specific requirements established by the laws of the state under which that particular partner school or program operates.

This non-discrimination statement is in accordance with the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972 (Title 9), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).

Both Pearson and Connections Education of Florida, LLC are non-sectarian, are not affiliated with any religious or political groups, and comply with Section 1000.05 Florida statutes.

Customers should file all complaint and concerns regarding employee performance and potential issues regarding discrimination with their assigned CE of FL Academic Program Manager.

Florida Approved Courses

CE of FL will only offer courses currently approved in Florida, either through the provider approval application renewal submitted every three years to the Florida Department of Education, or as added by CE of FL under the Provider Assurances. All courses offered comply with the Florida Assurances, including alignment to Florida's currently adopted state standards under s. 1003.41 and conformance to level A of WCAG 2.0.

A list of courses currently available for the next school year will be provided annually to District VIP partners by the last business day in October. **This October list is subject to change;** while CE of FL hopes to add to the list most years, some currently approved courses may need to be removed from the list prior to the start of the next school year. Therefore, at least one (1) month prior to the start of the new school year, District VIP partners should confirm with their CE of FL Academic Program Manager what approved courses are available for the upcoming school year.

Roles and Responsibilities

Student and **Teacher** roles and responsibilities are provided in the main portion of this Handbook.

Parent/Caretaker Roles and Responsibilities

CE of FL uses the term "Caretaker" to refer to the student's parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s). The Caretaker has full and final responsibility for the child's education and educational decision-making, and therefore must be available to both the District VIP partner and the CE of FL teacher(s) as needed (generally during regular school hours) for discussions related to the student's educational

and other program-related needs. **At minimum**, the Caretaker must be available for the monthly phone contact with their student's teacher(s). All Caretakers are automatically given Caretaker access in CE of FL's proprietary education management system (Connexus) so they can provide oversight and assistance to their student(s) as appropriate, and to see their student's work and grades in Connexus.

Advisors

CE of FL's District VIP partners may elect to have an Advisor assigned to their program(s) in addition to teachers. Advisor roles and responsibilities are described in the main portion of this Handbook (See "Pearson Advisor").

ESOL-Endorsed Teachers

CE of FL will provide the District VIP partner an ESOL-endorsed teacher for students requiring ESOL education, if those students are identified by the district and the need for an ESOL-endorsed teacher is communicated in writing to CE of FL.

Additional Staff Provided by Connections Education of Florida

CE of FL will not provide additional human resources beyond the ESOL-endorsed Teacher, Administrator, and Advisor roles described in this Handbook and Appendix unless clearly and separately specified in the SOW or contract between CE of FL and the District VIP partner.

Student, Parent, and Teacher Contact Requirements

Students will have regular, ongoing contact with their CE of FL teacher through a combination of phone calls, WebMail messages, LiveLesson sessions, assessment feedback via the Grade Book, and other communications tools. At minimum, each CE of FL instructor in each course will conduct one contact via phone with the student and his/her Caretaker/parent each month.

Teacher, Administrator, and Staff Certification Requirements and Documentation

All CE of FL instructional staff will be qualified as required by federal and state law and hold valid Florida teaching certificates under provisions of [Chapter 1012, Florida Statutes](#). Administrators will hold valid Florida administrator credentials and be located in the state of Florida.

All CE of FL employees undergo background screenings as required by [s. 1012.32](#), using state and national criminal history records.

CE of FL will provide a list of instructional employees to the District VIP partner for verification of compliance and will submit a teacher demographics spreadsheet to the District VIP partner prior to the start of school or the first of September, whichever comes first.

In addition, all CE of FL staff and their credentials will be listed as required on the Disclosures page.

Enrollment Requirements

Per [Florida Statute 1002.455](#), all students, including home education and private school students, are eligible to participate in the following virtual instruction program options offered by Connections Education of Florida, LLC:

1. District VIP part-time or full-time kindergarten through grade 12 virtual instruction programs under s. [1002.45](#)(1)(b) (covered in this Appendix and the Customer Handbook for Teaching Services Connexus).
2. Full-time virtual charter school instruction authorized under s. [1002.33](#) to students within the school district or to students in other school districts throughout the state pursuant to s. [1002.31](#). (For information on full-time virtual charter schools partnering with Connections Education of Florida, see the [Connections Education of Florida, LLC Approved Provider web page](#).)

Florida law mandates that students meet the following requirements in order to participate in VIP partnerships offered by CE of FL:

- Students must reside in the state of Florida; AND
- Meet the age requirements according to Florida statutes including [s. 1003.21](#).

CE of FL provides varying levels of support for enrolling students in District VIP partnerships, based on the agreement (Scope of Work/SOW) with each district. For more details on the specific enrollment requirements and processes for your District VIP partnership with CE of FL, please contact your District VIP administrator.

Maximum Age to Enroll

In Florida, the maximum age to enroll is twenty-one (21) years of age at the date of enrollment. Maximum age limits also apply to students who choose to re-enroll.

Attendance

All District VIP partner students must comply with the compulsory attendance requirements of s.[1003.21](#). Student attendance must be verified by the school district.

The following Recommended Hours Per Week and Required Hours Per Year are provided to help students, their families, and their teachers ensure students both meet Florida hours of attendance requirements and remain on pace to complete their coursework on time.

Grade Band	Recommended Hours per Week	Required Hours per Year
K – 3	20	720
4 – 12	25	900

Placement in Courses

Student placement into courses is based upon academic appropriateness as determined by the student, parent, District Liaison, school counselor, and/or school administrator, as appropriate for the program in which the student is enrolled. Students may be placed in courses to meet graduation requirements, need for acceleration, and/or need for remediation.

Students must meet all course prerequisite requirements prior to being enrolled in a course that requires a prerequisite. Semesters A and B of a course cannot be taken concurrently (during the same semester).

Students identified by the customer as needing reading and/or math intervention may be enrolled in intensive reading and math Supplemental Instructional Support Programs to support the student in these subject areas. However, District VIP partners should be aware that at this time CE of FL does not offer CPALMS-aligned Intensive Reading and Intensive Math courses in Florida. The District VIP partner is responsible for implementing a CPALMS-aligned RTI model.

Third Grade Portfolio

Mid-year, CE of FL will ask District VIP partners if they have third grade students for whom the District wishes the CE of FL teachers to build a portfolio as described in s. 1008.25(6)(b)(4), FS. For those identified students, CE of FL teachers will begin tracking and building portfolios on January 1, and will provide the portfolios to the District VIP partner. The District VIP partner may then use those portfolios to decide if students who did not pass the third grade FSA should be promoted to fourth grade.

Grading and Student Evaluation

The standard Grading Scale is provided in the main portion of this handbook; District VIP partners may request a custom Grading Scale be used instead.

CE of FL teachers grade student assessments and assignments throughout the course. At the end of the course, CE of FL provides student final grades to the students' district of residence, and the student's district of residence issues the official grade for the student.

Curricular Assessment Modifications

As described in the main portion of this Handbook, CE of FL teachers may provide modifications and adaptations of curricular assessments as appropriate to personalize the course for individual students. All curricular modifications will ensure the course remains aligned to Florida standards and complies with all Florida requirements and Assurances.

Grades K-8 Promotion

Final decisions regarding promotion and retention will be made by the student's district liaison.

Grades K-5: In order to receive credit for a course, the student must pass the course (achieve a final grade of 60% or greater) and complete all of the assigned assessments. Promotion into the next grade level is dependent on a final passing score in core classes Language Arts and Math.

Grades 6-8: In order to receive credit for a course and be promoted to the next course or level, the student must pass each of their four core courses (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) by completing all assigned assessments and achieving a final grade of 60% or greater.

High School Promotion

In Florida, the following credits are required to be promoted to the next grade:

Classification	Grade	Minimum # of Credits	Other Requirements
Sophomore	10	5	One full school year
Junior	11	11	Two full school years
Senior	12	17	Three full school years, including 8 credits in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

High School Graduation Requirements

Students taking CE of FL District VIP courses will receive high school diplomas from their district of residence. Florida High School Diploma requirements are as follows:

1. Earn a total of 24 credits (in specific areas and subjects as outlined below);
2. Pass all state-mandated tests required for graduation;
3. Meet any other district-mandated requirements

Subject Area	Number of Credits
English	4.0
Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry 1, Algebra II with Trigonometry, or equivalent courses)	4.0
Science (Biology 1, Physical Science)	3.0

Social Studies (World History, United States History, United States History II, United States Government, Economics)	3.0
Fine or Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts	1.0
Physical Education with Health integrated	1.0
Electives For elective credit details for Bright Futures Scholarships: www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org	8.0

CE of FL uses a standard whereby one credit equals approximately 180 hours of instruction (sometimes referred to as Carnegie Units).

Test Prep Courses

All Florida students will be provided with the appropriate Test Prep courses. Whether these courses are provided by CE of FL or the District VIP partner will be agreed upon between CE of FL and the District VIP partner and documented in the SOW or contract.

Florida State Assessment Requirements

All students participating in District VIP partnerships must take statewide assessments pursuant to s. [1008.22](#) and in the state's education performance accountability system under s. [1008.31](#). Connections will work closely with all District VIP partners to communicate this requirement to students and their Caretakers.

Statewide assessments may be administered within the school district in which such student resides, or as specified in the District's contract with CE of FL, in accordance with s. [1008.24](#) (3). If requested by either CE of FL the District VIP partner, the district of residence must provide the student with access to the district's testing facilities.

State Accountability Data

Preliminary survey data will be provided by CE of FL to the District VIP partner by the last day of the preliminary survey week. For survey periods 2 and 3, data will be provided at least one (1) week prior to the corresponding survey due date. Survey due dates are determined by the Florida

Department of Education. This data includes but is not limited to Student ID's, Course Titles, Course Numbers, and Provider Codes.