

MC Handbook

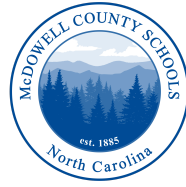


Parent and Student Handbook

2026 - 2027

Mission/Vision

McDowell County Schools



Vision

INSPIRING SUCCESS:

Future-Focused, Student-Centered, Mission-Driven

Mission Statement

The mission of McDowell County Schools is to deliver excellence in education where students are engaged in collaboration, communication, and innovation so that they graduate ready to achieve success and positively shape the future.

The McDowell County School System embraces the following as its core values and beliefs. Through all district operations and activities, it will . . .

- Stress the importance of students by making data-driven decisions that establish high expectations for all; create conditions enabling them to learn; and serve their academic, social, emotional, physical, and cultural needs.
- Cultivate meaningful relationships.
- Ensure the program is a safe, nurturing place where everyone engages in learning with curiosity and excitement.
- Emphasize the importance of staying on pace to complete all course work by deadlines.
- Create a culture of achievement for students to fulfill their potential, and prepare for future success.

McDowell Connect (MC) offers programming options aimed at aiding students in achieving their academic, career, and personal aspirations. Don't miss out on these valuable resources to enhance your educational experience!

McDowell Connect Staff

- ★ Adam Wiseman (adam.wiseman@mcdowell.k12.nc.us)- MCS Coordinator of Online and Innovative Learning and Program Administrator
- ★ Angela Bates (angela.bates@mcdowell.k12.nc.us) - Distance Learning Coordinator
- ★ Crystal Hamby (crystal.hamby@mcdowell.k12.nc.us)-MCS Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Federal Programs

Program Office Location:

McDowell Connect is located at McDowell High School. The address is 600 West McDowell Jr. High school Road., Marion, NC 28752. Phone: 828-652-7920

McDowell Connect Program Overview

McDowell Connect provides custom-tailored educational programming specifically designed for homeschooled students within McDowell County. MC empowers students from diverse backgrounds and with varied interests to personalize their learning journey. The best part is entirely tuition-free!

Is McDowell Connect right for you?

- Are you currently or planning to be a student receiving instruction via homeschooling?
- Have you received homeschooling in the past, yet found yourself needing additional support to tackle demanding coursework?
- Would you thrive with a blended schedule offering flexibility tailored to your requirements?
- Do circumstances such as involvement in competitive sports, travel commitments, caregiving responsibilities, or health concerns make attending traditional school challenging for you?
- Are you self-driven, dedicated to academic achievement, and capable of independently tracking your progress?
- Do you have the necessary support at home to ensure your success?

Students may choose from a variety of options, including:

- Fully virtual learning – Access all courses online from any location, facilitated through platforms like MCS Virtual programming through the Edmentum platform, MTCC Career and College Promise, North Carolina Public Schools (NCVPS) (High School only), NC School of Science and Math Connect (high school only, academic pre-requisites required).
- Blended scheduling – Craft a personalized course load by combining online classes with traditional or homeschool options to suit individual needs.
- Homeschool integration – Seamlessly transfer credits from licensed NC homeschools, enabling students to supplement their existing coursework with a minimum of two additional courses (high school) or three additional courses (middle school), either online or in a traditional setting.
- Long-term medical accommodations – Students confined to home or hospital settings can maintain academic progress by completing coursework online during extended medical leave.

How does it work?

- To maintain full-time status, students must enroll in a minimum of 2 courses per semester in high school and 3 courses per semester in middle school (Grades 7th-8th).
- MC offers the option to complement or entirely substitute the homeschool curriculum.
- Students will graduate from their homeschool program and not from McDowell County Schools.
- Internet access is available at MCS sites.
- MCS does not provide transportation services for MC students.
- MC offers loaner Chromebook devices for accessing online classes (\$25 rental usage fee).
- The McDowell Connect Coordinators are available to oversee student progress and provide support.

McDowell Connect Enrollment, Expectations and Academic Standards

Entrance Requirements:

Students must be residents of McDowell County to participate in the McDowell Connect program. Students who are enrolling from their homeschool should contact a McDowell Connect Coordinator to discuss the program and requirements. The phone number is 828-652-7920 (MHS) or you can email Adam Wiseman or Angela Bates. Current McDowell High School students should contact a McDowell High School Administrator and School Counselor to obtain information about the McDowell Connect program before speaking with the McDowell Connect Coordinator. Upon enrollment, homeschooled students must provide a copy of the NC Department of Administration homeschool license and transcripts from previous schools. The parent/guardian must also have a valid email address, contact number, and families should have mechanisms in place to provide student support.

*Once a student has enrolled in McDowell Connect, they are required to stay in McDowell Connect for the complete semester (high school) or year (middle school) for which they have enrolled. High School students may request to withdraw from McDowell Connect once the semester is complete, at the semester break.

**Student athletes, who enroll in McDowell Connect, must remain in McDowell Connect for the complete year, if they intend on playing sports during the following year.

***McDowell Connect students must participate in any required state or grade-level tests. Failure to do so, will result in the student being removed permanently from the McDowell Connect program.

Application Process & Deadline:

The enrollment deadline for each semester is the 10th day of school. See calendar for important dates. Current McDowell County Schools students interested in applying for McDowell Connect during the course of the school year must arrange a conference with their school's administrators and/or a school counselor to discuss their educational needs and academic options, prior to applying to McDowell Connect.

All interested families must obtain a homeschool license from the North Carolina Department of Administration's Homeschool office. Parents can go to <https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/non-public-education/home-schools> for more information. Once a homeschool license is obtained, interested families should complete the online application into McDowell County Schools and the McDowell Connect Parent Interest Form. Once all required items are received, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment with a McDowell Connect Coordinator.

**Please note that only complete enrollment packets will be considered. If approved to attend McDowell Connect, students must stay on track and maintain passing grades.

What is the Curriculum:

Parents must register students with McDowell County Schools prior to their child taking courses in any of these 3 avenues. Visit the McDowell County Schools website (www.mcdowell.k12.nc.us), click the About Us tab--New Student Enrollment. Create an account and then complete all the registration steps.

- 1) Asynchronously through the Edmentum LMS
- 2) Asynchronous classes, for state tested subjects (at the high school level) through North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS).
- 3) Face to face at East McDowell Middle School, West McDowell Middle School or McDowell High School
- 4) Dual Enrollment with McDowell Technical Community College

[See our full Edmentum/NCVPS Course Catalog here.](#)

Dual Enrollment with McDowell Technical Community College: McDowell Connect students may choose to dual enroll in classes offered by MTCC. While tuition costs are free for dual enrolled students, MTCC still charges student fees for which dual enrolled students are responsible for paying. Fees will range from \$100 - \$160.00 per semester. Students in Welding, HVAC and Cosmetology, at MHS, will be required to pay fees for each semester. Students will receive fee notices at the beginning of the semester for MTCC classes. Students must have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and be a junior or senior to enroll in McDowell Tech classes, through McDowell Connect. Please contact MTCC counselors Emilee Crowder at ecrowder72@go.mcdowelltech.edu or Kelsey Ledford at knledford32@go.mcdowelltech.edu for more information on dual enrollment.

Attendance:

Attendance (virtual) in Edmentum asynchronous classes is the responsibility of the homeschool administrator. Regular check-ins are required by the McDowell Connect Distance Learning Advisor and/or Program Administrator.

Attendance (virtual) for NCVPS asynchronous classes is subject to NCVPS requirements. Students who are not actively working may be dropped from the class and subject to pay the cost of the NCVPS course up to (\$400) per course if after the 10th day of school.

**** Students must log in to their Edmentum/NCVPS courses within the first 10 days of each class per semester. Students will be dropped from classes if they do not log in within the first 10 days of classes.**

Attendance (in-person) in McDowell County schools classes will follow the expectations stated in the McDowell County Schools Handbook.

Attendance (virtual and/or in-person) in McDowell Technical Community College classes will follow the attendance policies set forth by the college and its instructors.

Attendance by both students and parents (for new students) at an open house event at McDowell High School is mandatory, at the start of each school year.

McDowell Connect Yearly Schedule:

McDowell Connect operates on a fall and spring semester schedule, aligned with the McDowell County School's traditional schedule. Check with a McDowell Connect Coordinator for course due dates and schedule updates. Courses are not offered during summer months. Students are required to take a minimum of two courses (high school) or 3 courses (middle school) per semester. There is not a required maximum number of courses to take; however, course load may be limited.

Academic Testing:

For 2026-2027, we have made a change to virtual academic programming that is state-tested. Beginning next year, students wishing to continue on an academic track and want to take high school classes that are state-tested, will be enrolled in the corresponding NC Virtual Public School course(s). These high school classes include: Math 1, Math 3, English 2, and Biology. Keep in mind that NCVPS courses are more rigorous and aligned with traditional classes and facilitated, asynchronously, by a certified teacher. We believe this access will prove to be a benefit to the students registered in these courses. We will register the student in the NCVPS for you when we register them for their other classes. High school aged students: State required EOC Testing will count as 20% of the student's final class grade for those state tested subjects. Virtual Middle School courses through McDowell Connect that require End of Grade testing include: 7th and 8th grade Math, 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts, and 8th grade Science. These classes will be through the Edmentum platform with a certified teacher providing feedback and some minimal support.

NCVPS Parent Information: <https://ncvps.org/supporting-students-a-parents-guide/>

Students are required to take the ACT as a junior and the ACT Work Keys Test as a senior. All ELL students are required to participate in ACCESS Testing, as well as any other necessary placement tests. Students with IEP's and 504's are required to attend scheduled testing or meetings as requested by the McDowell County Schools Exceptional Children's program and/or child's IEP or 504 team. If there is a conflict in testing times with MTCC classes, MHS testing takes precedence over any McDowell Technical Community College class.

Failure to attend required testing will lead to permanent administrative removal from the McDowell Connect program. Please contact the McDowell Connect Distance Learning Coordinator if you have questions regarding testing. The student will be required to remain at the school location until the classroom testing session is completed.

***EOG and EOC scores can be used to meet the state requirements for maintaining homeschool eligibility.*

High School Graduation from Homeschool:

Per N.C. Department of Administration homeschool rules, McDowell Connect students will receive their high school diploma upon graduation from their North Carolina Registered Homeschool Program. The home school administrator will create the diploma and it will be from the student's homeschool. Students who remain enrolled in the McDowell Connect program at the end of their Senior year **WILL NOT:**

- ✗ graduate from McDowell County Schools,
- ✗ receive a diploma from McDowell County Schools, and
- ✗ participate in a graduation ceremony in McDowell County Schools.

Internet Access:

As many courses offered through MC, MCS NCVPS and MTCC virtual programs are conducted online, students must have internet access. This can be achieved from home, local libraries, MCS sites, and other suitable locations. Chromebooks are provided for students to utilize at home for a technology fee (\$25).

Academic/Behavioral Standards:

To foster a positive learning atmosphere devoid of harassment, negativity, and offensive behavior, students accepted into McDowell Connect must adhere to all regulations and policies outlined in the MCS Student Code of Conduct. This document is accessible on the [MCS webpage](#) for reference.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any academic dishonesty in online classes or MTCC classes will be met with zero tolerance. Students caught engaging in such behavior will face grade deductions on assignments or tests and may be subject to other disciplinary measures. MTCC students will be subject to the rules and regulations of McDowell Technical Community College, as well as McDowell Connect. Academic dishonesty encompasses cheating, copying the work of others, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during examinations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are only to be used to generate ideas for projects or research. They are not to be used to generate responses/ answers for assignments on any coursework. Using copied responses from AI is consistent with cheating. In cases of academic dishonesty, parents will be contacted and the student will receive a zero for the assignment for the first offense. The Distance Learning Coordinator, Program Administrator, or another supervising professional employee will determine academic dishonesty by considering written evidence, platform data, observations, and information provided by students.

Academic Failure:

The administration retains the authority to mandate in-person attendance for McDowell Connect or to withdraw students from class(es) if they fail to demonstrate sufficient academic progress. Students will receive a warning and be placed on academic probation for a minimum of one semester, if a student fails to pass any class. Students can be removed from the program if they do not make sufficient adequate progress during the probationary period. Students are ineligible to re-register for the failed course through McDowell Connect's Edmentum platform. For NCVPS courses: Students who are not actively working and/or are making little to no attempt in improving his/her grade may be dropped from the NCVPS class and the family will be subject to pay the cost of the NCVPS course up to (\$400) per course.

Academic Supports:

A McDowell Connect Coordinator is accessible daily in the McDowell High School Library on regular school days between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Their role is to aid students experiencing challenges with class logins and offer a peaceful study environment. Students should contact a McDowell Connect Coordinator should they have questions about the Edmentum LMS. For students taking NCVPS class(es), they should first reach out to their class instructor or they can contact Adam Wiseman. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will work with their assigned West McDowell Middle, East McDowell Middle or McDowell High School Exceptional Children's Case Manager to receive required academic support. Students with a Section 504 plan will work with their assigned West McDowell Middle, East McDowell Middle, or McDowell High School Counselor to receive required support.

Edmentum Coursework Expectations:

Students are no longer allowed to access Unit pretests to exempt out of unit content. Students must complete each lesson tutorial prior to taking each lesson's mastery test to receive credit for the assignment. A score of 60% or better is considered mastery for each mastery test or post test. Students who score below 60% must review that lesson's tutorial in its entirety before retaking the mastery test. Students may retake a test for a maximum of 2 attempts. If unsuccessful after 2 attempts, you will need to contact Mrs. Bates or Mr. Wiseman for further support. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action.

Participation in Athletics: ([MCS Board Policy 3620: EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS](#))

1. Any homeschool student wishing to play sports must have been in attendance at their homeschool at least 365 days prior to the start of the beginning of the athletic season. Once enrolled in the McDowell Connect program, the student must maintain continuous dual enrollment.
2. Any homeschool student's family, who has a primary residence in the school system, wishing to play a sport must contact their district assigned McDowell County School principal, in writing, to express their interest for their child to participate within 10 days prior to the first practice date of each sport season the student wishes to participate.
3. Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken. The student must also present proof of catastrophic accident insurance coverage unless the student is covered under the board's catastrophic athletic accident insurance policy.
4. Dual enrollment is as follows: High school students must register for at least two courses per semester, with McDowell Connect, and middle school students must register for three courses per year, with McDowell Connect, to be able to play sports according to the McDowell County School's Board of Education policy. The remaining courses can consist of a mixture of homeschool courses (from a Registered Homeschool through the Division of Non-Public Education) and/or courses offered at the traditional school.
5. The Student must maintain good academic and attendance standing as allocated by the NCHSAA throughout the entirety of the school year.

Required Forms

- ☐ McDowell Connect Academic Requirements/MC Agreement
- ☐ McDowell County Schools EOG/EOC Permission to Retest Form
(*if registering for an EOG/EOC tested subject)
- ☐ McDowell County Schools NCVPS/NCSSM
Course Agreement (*if registering for an EOC tested subject)

McDowell Connect Academic Requirements

Program Requirements: To access different aspects of the MC Edmentum virtual LMS platform, NCVPS, and/or NCSSM programs, it is recommended that you have access to:

- Chromebook (To be checked out in August and returned after the last day of classes for which the student is registered). A rental fee (\$25) will be due upon check out and the cost of the Chromebook will be assessed if it is not returned by the due date.

Student Requirements for Success:

Some essential qualities for students to succeed in online learning include:

- Self-Motivation, determination, and perseverance
- Ability to work independently and maintain focus to consistently complete coursework.
- Strong time management abilities
- Willingness to seek help when needed, proactively addressing challenges
- Active engagement with computer-based media
- Consistent submission of assignments within deadlines
- Responsiveness to requests from teachers and parents
- Proficiency in basic computer skills, including email, web navigation, and word processing
- Access to support at home and a conducive environment for studying
- Availability of transportation to McDowell High School if academic assistance is required

Parent Requirements for Success:

Some tips for parents to support their child's online learning:

- Set up a quiet, distraction-free workspace for your child.
- Establish a daily schedule for schoolwork and prioritize it.
- Ensure your child has the necessary tools for academic success, such as supplies and internet access. Monitor their progress in each course and offer assistance when needed.
- Stay positive, show interest, and be available and supportive.
- Check students progress in coursework, either on Edmentum or Infinite Campus weekly.
- Engage in daily conversations with your child to stay updated on their progress and well-being.
- Provide any required academic tools, such as headphones with a microphone or a graphing calculator, and be alert to signs of stress or frustration.
- Don't hesitate to ask for assistance if needed.
- Contact the Distance Learning Advisor as soon as possible should you change the status of your child's enrollment with McDowell Connect, so that McDowell Connect's records can be updated immediately.

McDowell Connect Agreement

Student's Name: _____

By signing below, you accept the following:

1. I have read, understand, and will adhere to all information outlined in the McDowell Connect Standards and policies as stated in the MCS Student Code of Conduct.
2. I understand that I am to log into my coursework DAILY (Monday-Friday) to complete required assignments and stay on pacing for individual courses, in an effort to meet course attendance requirements. I will contact a McDowell Connect coordinator by email to inform them of reasons why I can't log in if I fail to log in for more than five (5) continuous school days. I understand that failure to log in daily can cause me to fall behind in coursework. Additional time may be necessary to complete coursework in the evenings and/or weekends.
3. I recognize that I am responsible for procuring the necessary computer equipment and software for my courses when working from home.
4. I pledge to complete all coursework independently. Enlisting another individual to complete assignments for courses I am enrolled in constitutes cheating and is a direct violation of the student code of conduct. Also, I acknowledge that AI tools are only to be used to generate ideas for projects or research. They are not to be used to generate responses/ answers for assignments on any coursework. I understand that using copied responses from AI is consistent with cheating, that my parents will be contacted and I will receive a zero for the assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in removal from the program.
5. I commit to checking my McDowell Connect email daily and to contacting my assigned McDowell Connect Distance Learning Advisor (DLA) via email or phone if I have any questions or require assistance, including login issues or academic challenges.
6. If enrolled in a NCVPS or NCSSM course, I will abide by the guidelines and expectations for those courses.
7. As determined by the Distance Learning Coordinator, I will participate in all required EOGs, EOCs, WorkKeys, the ACT and/or CTE Post Assessment/Credentials in person at the designated school location. I understand that I am obligated to take ALL State Tests or CTE credentials associated with my courses or grade-level.
8. I understand that failure to log into a course within the first 10 days of class will result in being dropped from the course.
9. I acknowledge that all grades earned through MC, including "F's," will be recorded on my transcript and factored into my GPA. This encompasses failing to complete all coursework by the final day of class, and/or failing to take any required EOC's or CTE Post Assessments/Credentials.
10. I understand that McDowell Connect and/or McDowell County Schools reserve the right to terminate my enrollment should I fail to comply with all academic standards and policies.
11. I understand that I may choose to rent a Chromebook to use for a \$25 fee and will return it immediately after the last day of classes for which I am registered.
12. I understand that I am required to attend a parent/student open house for McDowell Connect in August 2026.
13. I understand that I am responsible for adhering to any other applicable McDowell County School Board Policies/Guidelines.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____ Relationship: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Number _____



McDowell County Schools EOG/EOC Permission to Retest Form

Dear Parent or Guardian:

For McDowell Connect students who are signed up for End of Grade or End of Course state tested subjects, NC Admin. Code 16 06D .0311, the Testing Code of Ethics, requires all eligible students to participate in the required end-of-semester and end-of-year state testing. High school students who take NC Math 1, NC Math 3, Biology, and English II take an end-of-course test which is required to count at least 20% of their final grade for the course. 7th or 8th grade students who take English Language Arts, Math, or 8th Grade Science will take End of Grade tests in those subjects towards the end of the school year.

Beginning with the 2025–26 school year, students who scored not proficient on their end of year state test may participate in a second test administration. This retest will give students another opportunity to show what they know and can possibly improve their grade in the course. However, parental/legal guardian permission is required for a student to participate in a retest.

If you would like your student to have the opportunity to retest, please complete and sign the form below. If you have questions or concerns about retesting opportunities please contact *Adam Wiseman* (adam.wiseman@mcdowell.k12.nc.us) or *Angela Bates* (angela.bates@mcdowell.k12.nc.us), or call 828-652-7920.

I give permission for my student to retest.	
(Student's Name)	
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)	Date

Name of Test(s): check any corresponding tested subject(s) student is registered for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 7th Grade ELA | ☐ HS NC Math 1 |
| ☐ 7th Grade Math | ☐ HS NC Math 3 |
| ☐ 8th Grade ELA | ☐ HS English II |
| ☐ 8th Grade Math | ☐ HS Biology |
| ☐ 8th Grade Science | |

McDowell County Schools NCVPS Course Agreement

*Complete only if you are taking NCVPS or NCSSM course(s)

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____

School: _____

2026-2027 Grade Level: _____

Virtual Program:

- ☐ NCVPS
☐ NC School of Math and Science Connect

Course Name(s)/Semester:

- ★ _____
★ _____
★ _____
★ _____

Purpose

McDowell County Schools offers students the opportunity to enroll in online courses through the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) Connect program. These courses provide students with expanded learning opportunities, flexible scheduling options, and access to rigorous academic content.

Success in an online learning environment requires self-motivation, time management, regular communication, and consistent academic effort. This agreement outlines the expectations and responsibilities for students and parents/guardians participating in online coursework.

Student Responsibilities

As a student enrolled in an NCVPS or NCSSM Connect course, I understand and agree to the following:

1. Attendance and Participation

- I will log into my online course within the first 10 days of the semester and regularly and actively participate in all required learning activities.
- I understand that online courses require consistent weekly engagement and assignment completion.
- I will follow all attendance/participation requirements established by the online instructor and McDowell County Schools.

2. Coursework and Deadlines

- I will complete all assignments, assessments, projects, and discussions by the assigned deadlines.
- I will maintain adequate progress in the course and stay on pace according to the course calendar.
- I understand that falling behind may negatively impact my academic performance and my ability to remain enrolled in the course.

3. Communication & Responsibility

- I will regularly check my school email, course messages, and announcements.
- I will communicate with my online instructor, facilitator, counselor, and parents/guardians if I am experiencing academic or technical difficulties.
- I will respond promptly to communications from school staff and instructors.
- I understand that I am responsible for monitoring my grades and course progress.
- I will seek help immediately if my grade drops or if I begin to fall behind.

4. Academic Integrity & Digital Citizenship

- I will complete my own work and follow all academic honesty policies.
- I understand that plagiarism, cheating, or misuse of technology may result in disciplinary consequences and removal from the course.
- I understand that artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or similar platforms) may only be used when permitted by the instructor.
- If AI tools are allowed for an assignment, I will use them responsibly and ethically to support my learning, not to replace my own thinking or work.
- I will not submit AI-generated work as my own unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- I will follow all McDowell County Schools technology policies and acceptable use guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

As the parent/guardian of a student enrolled in an NCVPS or NCSSM Connect course, I understand and agree to the following:

1. I will support my student in maintaining regular participation and progress in the online course.
 2. I will encourage my student to manage their time effectively and complete assignments on schedule.
 3. I will monitor my student's academic progress, attendance, and communication from the school and online instructor.
 4. I will communicate with school staff if concerns arise regarding my student's performance, attendance, or technology access.
 5. I understand that online courses require a significant level of student responsibility and independent learning.
-

McDowell Connect Responsibility Statement

Students enrolled in courses through the McDowell Connect program are expected to demonstrate consistent academic progress and participation throughout the duration of the course.

By signing this agreement, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge and understand the following:

- McDowell County Schools pays any associated costs for eligible students enrolled in NCVPS and/or NCSSM Connect courses.
- Students are expected to remain actively engaged, complete assignments, and make satisfactory academic progress. In addition, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and student acknowledge that it is mandatory for the student to take any state tests associated with a course.
- Failure to stay on track with coursework, failure to improve academic performance after interventions, excessive inactivity, failure to take any state test associated with a course, etc. may result in the student and/or parent/guardian being financially responsible for the cost of the enrolled course(s) (up to \$425 per course) and the student will receive a failing grade for that course(s). In addition, this will result in the student no longer being eligible to take any virtual course options in the future. Financial responsibility determinations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by school and district administration.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understand the expectations and responsibilities associated with participation in an NCVPS and/or NCSSM Connect course through McDowell County Schools and the McDowell Connect program.

We understand that successful completion of an online course requires regular participation, communication, academic effort, and personal responsibility.

We further understand the financial responsibility expectations associated with these types of courses.

Student Signature

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

School Representative Signature

School Representative Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

2026-2027 MC Calendar

August/September

August 24: First day for Students (Fall and Yearlong Courses begin)

September 4: 10th day of School (Last day to Add/drop Classes or Enroll for Fall Semester)

September 7: Labor Day Holiday (No School)

October/November

October 23: Teacher Workday and End of 1st Quarter (midpoint of Fall Semester) - Students should be finished with 50% of each course's assignments.

November 11: Veterans Day Holiday (No School)

November 25-27: Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

December/January/February

December 21-January 4: Christmas/Winter Break (No School)

January 8: End of All Fall Semester Classes/All Fall Semester Course Work Completed (Edmentum/NCVPS/MHS Classes)

January 11-15: Anticipated Fall HS EOC week (*subject to change)

January 19: Spring Semester Classes Begin (Edmentum/NCVPS), End of 2nd Quarter (midpoint of year)

February 1: 10th day of Semester (Last day to Add/drop Classes or Enroll for Spring Semester)

March/April

March 29-April 2: Spring Break (No School)

April 5: End of 3rd Quarter (midpoint of Spring Semester)-Students should be finished with 50% of each course's assignments.

May

May 11: End of Spring semester and Year-long Classes/All Course Work Completed (Edmentum/NCVPS/MHS Classes)

May 24-28: Anticipated Spring semester and Yearlong EOG/EOC week (*subject to change)

May 27-June 4: EOG/EOC Retesting