

The Learning Center

**Every Decision.
What is best for children?
EVERY TIME**



Gulfport Virtual Academy Student/Parent Quick Reference

2026-2027

(A full copy of all school handbooks is available at
<https://www.gulfportschools.org/page/student-handbooks>)

The Learning Center Team

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Student Support

Melissa Grant, Counselor, melissa.grant@gulfportschools.org

Instructional Support

Ms. Holly Freeman, Teacher Leader/Safety Net, holly.freeman@gulfportschools.org

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Faculty and Staff

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VISION

The vision of The Learning Center is to equip students with the necessary skills to be successful in school and society.

MISSION

The mission of The Learning Center is to teach students skills to self-govern their behaviors in order to gain positive outcomes and become productive citizens.

MOTTO

Today your waters can be rough or calm, the choice is yours. So catch a wave and ride smoothly to shore!

Attendance

All students, virtual and traditional, must follow The Mississippi Department of Education requirements for attendance. So there is no confusion about what is considered "present" for virtual students, please review the points below to make sure your child is in compliance:

- Students must be present 66% of the scheduled day to be counted as present. The day from start to finish has 375 minutes which means students must complete 248 minutes of work and/or face time to be counted present.
- Students will work in Edgenuity and/or i-Ready. Both programs track time on task as well as idle time. Assignments have projected "time to complete" measurements based on a typical student completing the task. If a task is 40 minutes and your student completes the task in 20 minutes, the student gets credit for 40 minutes of time on task. If your student needs 60 minutes, then they get credit for 60 minutes of time on task.
- If a student gets ahead in their work, they **MUST communicate with the teachers** to ensure they have met their percentage to receive credit for the day. Students should check in via email and/or zoom. **Teachers will allow your child to be dismissed from the zoom IF they have completed assignments needed at a proficient level.** If your child has completed the minutes but is not PROFICIENT, then they need to stay in the zoom with the teacher for remediation.
- When in zoom, **students need to have the camera on and facing their person.** Cameras not on or facing the ceiling is not proof that the student is present and may cause your student to be counted absent.
- If a child is absent due to a medical appointment or other family situation, they will be marked absent. Please send documentation to Ms. Richardson so the absence can be excused.
- If a child is absent because they were a no show on zoom and/or did not complete any work for the day, and/or did not communicate with the teacher of their situation, the absence is unexcused.
- If a student is absent they are required to complete their missed work. Completing the work does not erase the absence. Any student who misses work is required to make that work up regardless if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Instruction and Assessment

Students must work each day in each class. Students will get behind in their work when they only work on one class each day. Students should login to each zoom session with each teacher throughout the day unless informed otherwise by the lead teacher, Ms.

Mitchell, due to a teacher absence. Even if a teacher is absent, students should complete their work.

Quizzes are unlocked, but unit tests are locked. If a student leaves a quiz after starting, however, the quiz will become locked. If a student gets to a unit test, they **MUST** zoom with the teacher to take the test. If a teacher is unavailable to observe, the student must stop at that point. They should work in another subject until a teacher is available to monitor the administration of the assessment. **Due to cheating and plagiarism that takes place in the virtual learning world**, all unit tests **MUST** be completed in the presence of the teacher. This is not negotiable.

Additionally, all math and reading district common assessments (DCAs) must be taken on campus. Our teachers must have accurate data to know what students know and don't know. A schedule will be sent a week ahead of the assessments.

Edgenuity progress reports will be sent home biweekly via mail. An explanation of the grading system is included in this document as Appendix A.

Learning Environment

Students must be in an adequate home learning environment that is free from distractions. Adult supervision is required for grades 6-8. A student's workspace should allow students to sit upright so they are properly focused. Students must adhere to the dress code found in the district handbook. Students are not allowed to participate if dressed in pajamas or distracting clothing.

Participation Qualifications and Expectations

Student records (academic, behavior, and attendance) will be reviewed to ensure virtual learning is the best option for student learning. All students are on probation and closely monitored the first four weeks of school. At any time a student violates the state absence requirements, starts to fail, and/or does not comply with the expectations, they will be dismissed from the program and referred back to their onsite school.

All students participating must use a district chromebook and have reliable internet connection. A \$35.00 technology fee is due at registration. Also, students and parents must complete and sign the Chromebook Contract.

Parent Obligations

All parents are required to attend a parent meeting at the beginning of the year with the principal. If a student is starting after the beginning of the year, parents will need to meet with the principal one on one to review all expectations.

Parents are responsible for providing all transportation to and from The Learning Center for assessments and/or picking up resources and required materials.

Schedule

The daily schedule is as follows for the 2026-2027 academic school year:

TIME	8:30-9:25	9:35-10:30	10:40-12:00	12:10-1:10	1:20-2:15	2:15-2:45
Block	1	2	3	4	5	6
Subject	CTE	Science	History	ELA	Math	Elective/PE

Student Services

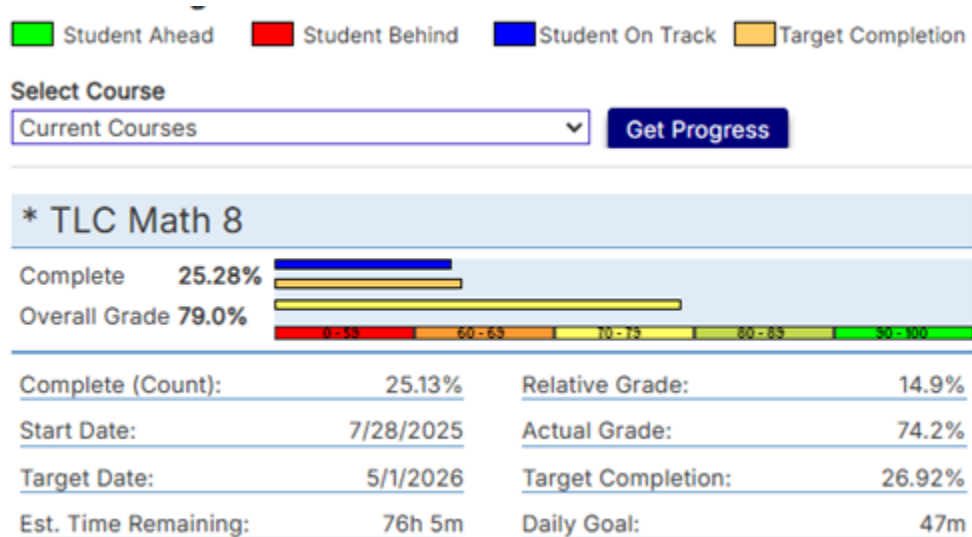
Eligible virtual students will receive scheduled support services. The assigned service provider will arrange meetings, monitor and document student progress and communicate with families, teachers and administrators.

Appendix A

Understanding Grading and Progress

Edgenuity gives a colored bar graph under the progress section of the program. Students are either ahead, behind, on track or completed. Below are examples of a student on track and behind.

STUDENT ON TRACK



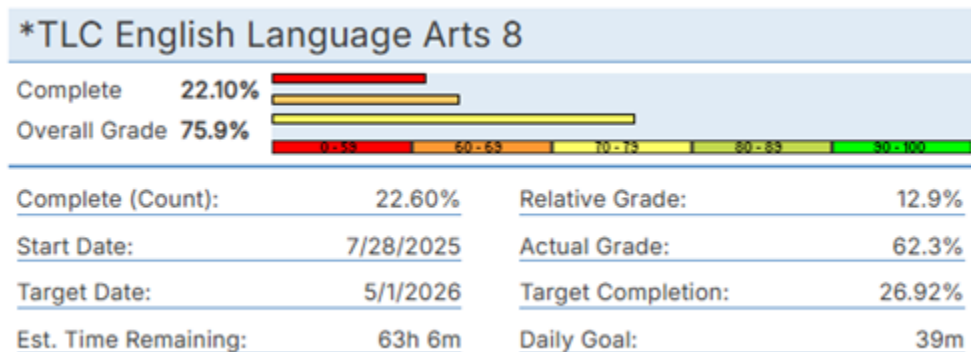
A student on track is pretty self explanatory. If a student's top line is in blue or green they will receive the grade listed as Overall Grade.

Sometimes a student is in the red. When they are in the red that does not automatically mean they are super behind and are failing. It means they may be working on their iReady lessons or they may be taking a district assessment or they may have been sick or they simply don't understand and need to rework a lesson. Just like in a live classroom, students are not penalized for things beyond their control. However, when your child is not logging in or not working on lessons daily as instructed, that is a different situation. Sometimes being in the red means no effort.

STUDENT IN RED-ON TRACK

Look at the graph below. This student is in red. However, this student works hard every day. This student is getting 4-5 hours of work completed between Edgenuity or iReady daily. Now look at the percentage *complete* in the top line and the *target complete* on the right side. We calculate what percentage of work is actually completed based on these two numbers.

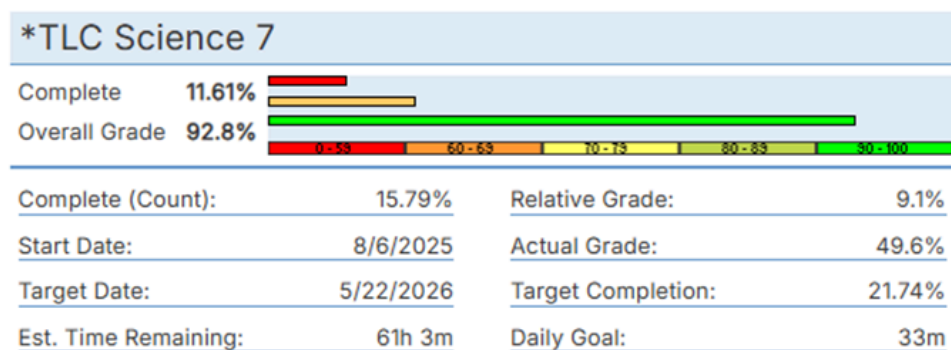
$22.10 / 26.92 = 82\%$. This means the student has completed a proficient amount of work. **70% complete is our proficiency marker**. So, this student's grade will stay at 75.9% unless points are added or subtracted for a district assessment.



STUDENT IN RED-OFF TRACK/FAILING

Look at the graph below. This student is also in red. However this student has multiple absences or this student has only completed 1-2 hours of work or this student logs in and then turns their camera off. Let's calculate this student's completion proficiency.

$11.61 / 20.74 = 56\%$. This means this student is not proficient in completing work.



A student who has 60-69% completion loses 10 points to the overall grade. A student who has 50-59% completion loses 20 points to the overall grade. A student who is lower than 50% receives an automatic F. Remember, work not completed in a live classroom receives a zero. So, work not completed in a virtual classroom must adjust the grade for incomplete work. The above student loses 20 points and has a final grade of 72.8. This is considerably higher than the Edgenuity grade of 49 which is recommended in the right column.