

A8 | District-operated full-time enrolled online, virtual and remote learning program

The A8 program classification is for districts seeking to expand programmatic opportunities through online, virtual and remote learning models. The following are some of the design considerations to help district and program leaders determine how the goals and desired outcomes of the program align with this classification. Information on how to make a modification/transition of a current program or create a new one are available at the end of this document.

Program Design Considerations

Enrollment <i>[Full-time/Part-time, Primary/Partial, Voluntary/Involuntary, Non-resident & Grade Levels]</i>	1
Attendance Verification, Funding, and Course Setup.....	2
Accountability.....	2
Graduation.....	3
Extra Curricular/Co Curricular Activities.....	3
Program Requirements <i>[ILP, ILPA, Monitoring]</i>	3
Other.....	3
A8 Program Creation.....	3
Helpful Links for More Information.....	4

Enrollment *[Full-time/Part-time, Primary/Partial, Voluntary/Involuntary, Non-resident & Grade Levels]*

- Are full-time enrolled students required as an A8 program?
 - ◆ Yes.
- If we have full-time enrolled students, does that make an A8 program by default?
 - ◆ No. Full-time enrolled students could be part of an academy model positioned as “school within a school” at an accountable school (A1) in your district or an alternative education program (A5).
- Can students in our accountable schools (A1) supplement their schedules with courses from the A8?
 - ◆ Yes. It is common for districts to expand the offerings of the accountable schools (A1) utilizing the courses/content and staff of a full-time enrollment program.
- Can students be primarily enrolled in the A8 program?
 - ◆ **NEW - No.** Beginning the 25-26 school year, the primary enrollment of students in an A8 program shall be in an accountable school (A1) of the district. See [704 KAR 3:535](#)
- Can students have a partial (secondary) enrollment in the A8 program?
 - ◆ Yes. The A8 may be a secondary enrollment for students to help link them to the program for reporting and other purposes.
 - **SPECIAL NOTE:** partial enrollments can also be used for homeschool/private school students taking courses in the district through the program.
- Do A8 programs allow for voluntary and involuntary enrollment?
 - ◆ Yes. Districts can allow student/family requests for enrollment and could also have involuntary enrollment of students similar to an alternative education program (A5). Districts should include the criteria for enrollment in local policy.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Involuntary enrollment would require the program to use virtual and performance-based course setup and attendance verification, which is only available for grades 5-12.
- Can our A8 program offer non-resident student enrollment?
 - ◆ Yes. Districts should include this in their locally developed non-resident enrollment policy.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE: NEW -** Beginning the 25-26 school year, non-resident students in an A8 program will also require a primary enrollment in an accountable school (A1) of the district. Districts should determine the policy for assigning these enrollments to accountable school(s).
NEW - Additionally, [per HB 241 \(Section 4a\)](#) “the statewide total enrollment of nonresident pupils in virtual programs offered by school districts shall not exceed an enrollment cap of one percent (1%) of the previous year’s total statewide student enrollment in all school districts”. This cap is posted on [KDE’s Open House site](#) and is valid for the remainder of the current school year.
- Do we have to offer non-resident student enrollment?
 - ◆ No.
- What grade levels can we offer in the A8 program?
 - ◆ K-12.
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If students in K-4 are enrolled full-time, the program must use the course setup and attendance tracking structures of [704 KAR 3:535](#).

Attendance Verification, Funding, and Course Setup

→ How do A8 programs track attendance?

- ◆ *Programs will have the option to utilize different structures for this, based on course-by-course setup decisions. One option is through Virtual & Performance-based structures in [704 KAR 3:305](#) for students in grades 5-12. A second option is also available through [704 KAR 3:535](#) which allows districts to receive 'seat-time attendance' for students enrolled full-time. This is required for students in grades K-4 and available for grades 5-12 as long as the attendance tracking requirements are followed.*

- **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [Virtual & Performance-based Setup Guidance](#)
- [Virtual & Attendance-based Setup Guidance](#) (seat-time)
- [Data Standard - Pupil Attendance](#)
- [Data Standard - Course](#)

→ Do we have to use one or the other?

- ◆ *No. You can use both if it meets the needs of the district/program.*

Accountability

→ Where will accountability for A8 program students track to?

- ◆ *This will be determined through the student's primary and partial/secondary enrollment status.*
 - **NEW -** Beginning the 2025-2026 school year, students enrolled full-time using ABV courses (attendance-based virtual) through 704 KAR 3:535 AND/OR in an A8 classified program, shall have a primary enrollment in the state student information system (Infinite Campus) of an accountable school in the district.
 - **Questions?**
 - Enrollment Data Standard | josh.whitlow@education.ky.gov
 - Enrollment pertaining to accountability | dacinfo@education.ky.gov
 - Enrollment as part of program design | ben.maynard@education.ky.gov

→ Is there a financial dashboard requirement in the school report card for A8 programs?

- ◆ *No.*

Graduation

→ Are there any special requirements for graduation through an A8 program?

- ◆ *No. The same [minimum graduation requirements](#) established by the Kentucky Board of Education apply as well as those adopted by the local board of education.*

→ Which Diploma would students receive in an A8 program?

- ◆ *The local Board of Education establishes graduation and diploma requirements. For instance, a local board may elect the same graduation requirements and diploma as the accountable (A1) high school in their district.*

Extra Curricular/Co Curricular Activities

→ Can students participate in clubs, programs and school activities?

- ◆ *Yes, per local district policy.*

→ Can students participate in KHSAA sanctioned sports and activities?

- ◆ *Yes, dependent on enrollment status and local district policy. To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time and concurrently in an appropriate A1 school as verified by Infinite Campus.*

Program Requirements [ILP, ILPA, Monitoring]

- Can students in an A8 program continue their ILP from a formerly or concurrently enrolled accountable (A1) school?
 - ◆ *Yes.*
- Can a student start a new ILP?
 - ◆ *Yes. As in an A1 school, students begin an ILP in 6th grade.*
- Do students need to complete an ILPA in an A8 program?
 - ◆ *No. The ILPA is only required for students enrolled in A5 or A6 programs per 704 KAR 19:002.*
- Will there be monitoring visits for A8 programs?
 - ◆ *No. The [Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines](#) contain principles for the continuous improvement of online, virtual, and remote learning programs to which district Superintendents attest to in the annual assurances.*

Other

- Are students in an A8 program permitted on campus during school hours?
 - ◆ *Yes. A program may utilize student time on campus for interventions, testing, participation in performance classes such as band or career and technical education courses, and other possible scenarios. Programs should have a system to determine when a student is on campus and align with the attendance verification structures for the course enrollment.*

A8 Program Creation

- How do we create an A8 program?
 - ◆ *Districts should leverage the [District and School Collection Repository](#) (DASCR) to add an A8 program.*
- Can we modify an A5 program to become an A8?
 - ◆ *Yes. Districts should also leverage the DASCR in this instance to modify/transition an existing A5 program to an A8.*
- When's the cutoff for creating/modifying an A8?
 - ◆ *Generally, a date of September 30 of the current school year would allow the new A8 program to be 'active'. After this date, the program would be official for the coming school year. If the school year has already started and you are considering the creation of a new program or modification of an existing school/program, reach out to Ben Maynard for assistance before submitting a request in DASCR.*
- Who do we contact if we have questions about our DASCR submission or program design?
 - ◆ *Shravanthi Raghavapuram | Office of the Commissioner
shravanthi.raghavapuram@education.ky.gov*
 - ◆ *Rodney Bennett | Office of Finance and Operations
rodney.bennett@education.ky.gov*
 - ◆ *Ben Maynard | Office of Education Technology
ben.maynard@education.ky.gov*

Helpful Links for More Information

[Online, Virtual, and Remote Learning Program Toolkit](#)
[Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines](#)
[704 KAR 3:535. Full-time enrolled online, virtual and remote learning programs](#)
[Virtual/Performance-Based Course Setup and Attendance Verification](#)
[Virtual & Attendance-based Setup Guidance](#) (seat-time)
[Course Data Standard](#)
[Data Standard - Enrollment](#)
[Data Standard - Graduation](#)
[Non-Resident Student Policy Information](#)
[Class Size in Virtual Courses and Programs](#)
[704 KAR 19:002. Alternative education programs](#)
[704 KAR 3:305. Minimum requirements for high school graduation](#)
[Guidance for Alternative Education Programs](#)
[Pupil Attendance Program Documents](#)
[DASCR](#)
[Model Curriculum Framework](#)
[Ky Online Learning Experience Collaborative](#)
[KY High School Athletic Association \(KHSAA\) Bylaws](#)
[703 KAR 5:240](#)