



FAQ: Expanding Learning Opportunities (eLo)

What is Expanding Learning Opportunities (eLo)?

Educators from Naperville District 203, Indian Prairie District 204 and Wheaton Warrenville 200 joined forces to create a consortium designed to engage students and ensure their success by providing a meaningful and high-quality online and blended learning experience in a locally supported environment.

What online classes are being offered for the 2014-15 school year?

Government (semester)
Consumer Economics (semester)
English 9/10 (year long)
English 11/12 (year long)
Geometry (year long)
Health (semester)
Chinese 1 (year long)
US History (year long)
Web Design (semester)

What are the dates for eLo courses?

The semester dates for eLo courses may be different from the regular semester dates for each district. Fall semester will begin August 26, 2014 and end December 19, 2014. Spring semester will begin January 20, 2015 and end May 19, 2015.

We have already completed our course selection for 2014-15. How do students sign up for eLo courses?

Counselors will be talking with students soon about this. If a student is interested in an online course, he/she is encouraged to talk with the counselor now. Next year, students will select eLo courses during the normal course selection period.

I already registered for online health or consumer economics next year. What should I do?

You do not need to do anything. If you registered for online health or consumer economics, we will honor that request. Those classes will follow the same rigorous curriculum as the eLo courses.

What kinds of students will be able to take eLo courses?

eLo courses will be fully accessible to students of all ability levels. At the current time, eLo courses are not geared toward credit recovery or students who have previously failed the same course in a face-to-face classroom.

How will the eLo courses compare to our current offerings?

Courses will be as rigorous as current face-to-face offerings.

Who will be teaching the eLo course?

Courses will be taught by current teachers from Districts 200, 203, and 204. This is one of the reasons for having a consortium. We can assure you that the teacher quality will be the same as the high standards we have with our current quality teaching staffs.

How will the eLo courses be taught?

The courses are teacher-directed. The courses are not self-paced in the sense that you can complete all of the work in one week for the whole term. Daily or weekly homework is required, depending on the course. Total time in the courses (class time and homework) will not be less than the traditional face-to-face courses. The courses' content will be delivered online. Virtual classroom presentations and help sessions will be through a conferencing system. Your instructor will provide you with a welcome contact with information through your email account.

Will courses be solely online or blended learning?

Current eLo courses are fully online. The long-term goal is to expand learning opportunities and this should include blended learning.

Will the eLo courses have new curriculum? Shouldn't the eLo courses mirror the content/curriculum of the face-to-face classroom courses?

The eLo courses will have new curriculum. The curriculum is based on the rigorous Common Core State Standards and has been developed by representatives from all member districts.

How many students will be in an online class?

Courses will be approximately the same size as face-to-face courses.

What advantages does online learning bring to students?

Research shows online learning benefits include increased access to high-quality teachers, increased flexibility for students and teachers and improved productivity and efficiency.

Is online learning right for my student?

There are several good rubrics available online to help families decide if online learning is right for their student. The consortium director will work with counselors, teachers, and parents to ensure that students understand the dispositions needed to be successful in an online course. In the meantime, this online readiness assessment is a good starting place for families: <http://goo.gl/0B2Ah3>.

How will I track my or my student's grade?

You will be able to view your progress the same way you currently do through Home Access Center (HAC); however, more detailed course information will be available through the online learning management system. Final grades will also be posted in Home Access Center along with your other courses.

Will there be exams?

Yes. Your teacher will explain the exam protocol during the orientation.

Will students be limited in the number of eLo courses that they can take?

During the 2014-15 school year, District 204 students will only be allowed to register for one full-year course or two semester courses. Additional courses may be allowed for students on a case-by-case basis.

Will students be able to take eLo courses outside of their normal course load?

At this time, the districts have individually decided not to allow eLo courses to be taken as an overload. This is something for future consideration as the consortium expands. Online courses will reduce the number of courses taken in the building and will result in a study hall/option period.

How will the eLo courses adapt and modify for students with an IEP?

We will work with teachers in order to ensure that all IEP, 504 and individualized instruction needs are met. This is the law, and we will follow it in the online setting as well.

What resources are in place for students that enter the course and then struggle?

These will be worked on with the counselors and teachers during professional development. Each district will also provide support, just as they do with current face-to-face courses. The teacher will explain the communication methods to parents and students during an orientation session.

What will be done with students who immediately fall behind and want to drop the course to avoid failing?

This will be addressed with the director, teachers and leadership. District policies for course withdrawal will apply.

Can homeschooled students take eLo courses? How would this work?

Yes, homeschooled students can register with their home school and select an online course as an option.

How will the eLo courses appear on transcripts?

Courses will appear on transcripts as courses for the student's home school. They will likely have unique course numbers, but the courses will not be specifically designated as online courses.

What about students who don't have computer access at home?

This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in each district. The consortium leaders are in agreement that access to technology should not limit a student's ability to succeed in an online course.

I am in middle school. Can I take a high school online course?

At the present time, enrollment is only open to current high school students.

How many students will each district have in each course?

Course	District 200	District 203	District 204	Total Students
Government	14	14	26	54
Consumer Economics	28	28	52	108
Geometry	7	7	13	27
English 9/10	7	7	13	27
English 11/12	7	7	13	27
Health	14	14	26	54
Chinese 1	7	7	13	27
U.S. History	7	7	13	27
Web Design	14	14	26	54

When will my eLo course be offered? What period will I have off?

It depends on your schedule. For seniors, every effort will be made to have your online course at the beginning or end of the day; therefore, you may arrive late or leave early. This will depend on the other courses in your schedule.

Are the eLo courses NCAA approved?

You may wish to reference the NCAA website at <http://goo.gl/yazdk>.

Is the goal to grow the eLo program? If so, why?

Yes. We want to allow students opportunities to be college and career ready. We realize that most students will have an online learning experience once they leave high school. In fact, it is estimated that online course enrollment in post-secondary experiences increased by 22% last year.

Will students who are hospitalized or homebound be able to take eLo courses?

Yes, we think this is a great opportunity for hospitalized and homebound students. These courses are not self-paced, so students will need to be enrolled for the entire duration of the course.

How do I register?

Begin by completing the registration form at <http://goo.gl/KVxNqa>. If there is space available, your counselor will contact you with an updated schedule for next year.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Contact your student's assigned counselor.