

# Virtual Schools: Industry 4.0 Diploma Distinction

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is the Industry 4.0 diploma distinction?***

The Industry 4.0 diploma distinction is a distinctive accolade added to a qualifying student's high school transcript and diploma. It is intended for students who are interested in pursuing a career in a high-need, high-skill industry after graduation.

### ***What statutes and rules frame the Industry 4.0 diploma distinction?***

The Industry 4.0 diploma distinction is framed in Tenn. Code Ann. § [49-6-420](#) and further outlined in [SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.06\(31\)](#).

### ***What must a virtual student do to earn or qualify for an Industry 4.0 diploma distinction?***

The pathway to earn an Industry 4.0 diploma distinction is the same for both virtual and non-virtual students. The pathway and requirements for students to earn this distinction are outlined in [SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.06\(31\)](#).

### ***Are virtual high schools required to offer the Industry 4.0 diploma distinction?***

Yes, [SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.06\(31\)](#) states that each public high school shall notify ninth (9th) grade and tenth (10th) grade students enrolled in the high school of the opportunity to pursue an Industry 4.0 diploma distinction no later than ten (10) days after the first day of each semester of the school year.

### ***How can a virtual school student earn the required nine (9) high school credits in work-based learning and/or dual enrollment if the virtual school does not offer these courses?***

Virtual schools may offer work-based learning opportunities and/or dual enrollment opportunities virtually; however, if a virtual school does not offer work-based learning and/or dual enrollment courses, virtual schools may partner with non-virtual schools to provide these academic opportunities. Partnering schools and/or local education agencies (LEAs) may develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline the process by which schools will share a student's enrollment relative to Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) funding and attendance/enrollment data provided to the department's educational information system (EIS).

***Is it permissible for a virtual school to partner with a non-virtual school to offer a wider range of academic opportunities for students?***

Yes, a reciprocal partnership between virtual schools and non-virtual schools is permissible and encouraged. Non-virtual schools may utilize a virtual education program as framed in [SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.05\(2\)](#) to offer virtual courses. Furthermore, virtual school students may take in-person courses within a non-virtual school if permitted by the non-virtual school and/or the LEA that oversees the non-virtual school. Partnering schools and/or LEAs may develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline the process by which schools will share a student's enrollment relative to TISA funding and attendance/enrollment data provided to the department's educational information system (EIS).

**Can virtual school students participate in career coaching in a completely virtual manner?**

Yes, virtual school students may participate in career coaching sessions virtually given that the career coach meets the requirements pursuant to [SBE Rule 0520-01-03-.06 \(31\)\(c\)](#).

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or email us at [Virtual.Schools@tn.gov](mailto:Virtual.Schools@tn.gov).**