Students can take online courses from home, in a school computer lab, or as part of a full-time virtual program. No matter where they’re learning, students will need the same types of skills and support to be successful.

Establish Expectations Early On
Before enrolling, students should understand that they will be expected to:

- Attend courses as agreed upon.
- Maintain a positive learning environment.
- Take and review notes frequently.
- Communicate with their instructor regularly.
- Take ownership of their learning.

Increase Student Responsibility
During the recruitment process for an online program, please consider these skills for prospective students:

- Time management and self-pacing.
- Ability and willingness to learn independently.
- Self-reflection to understand progress reports.
- Effective communication skills.
- Ability to recognize useful learning strategies that support success.
- Self-motivation to remain on track and engaged without constant teacher guidance.
- Strong reading, writing, and comprehension skills to follow directions and create new information.
- Basic technical skills for system and web navigation.

Share These Tips with Students
Throughout their program, remind students to:

- Ask for help whenever it’s needed.
- Aim for 5–8 hours of studying per course, per week.
- Recognize the difference between falling behind due to a lack of effort and a lack of understanding.
- Celebrate accomplishments and be proud of what they turn in.