

 In July 2012, Senate Bill 289 passed allowing students opportunities to take online courses. This legislation does not currently require an online course to graduate, but simply provides an online learning option should your student or you choose this option. In addition, House Bill 175 passed establishing a clearinghouse for stakeholders to find online courses and online course providers in the state of Georgia. This letter is to inform you about the key components of each piece of legislation and how to find opportunities for your student.

**Current Local Online Course Options:**

**Local Option: Local District Virtual Schools (Local-Run Virtual School provided by the local school districts)**

Students interested in a taking an online course through their local district should contact their local district to find out if they offer any online courses at the local level to include any costs associated with their course. If the local district does not offer online courses, the student can still enroll in courses through the state’s virtual school, Georgia Virtual.

Newton County Schools currently offers online courses through *Grad Point* and *Georgia Credit Recovery.* For more information regarding these programs, students and parents should contact their high school graduation coach; Director of Elementary Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning ; or the Director of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning.

**Accessing Georgia’s Online Clearinghouse:**

The Georgia Online Clearinghouse provides students and parent with information and access to high-quality academic and career-oriented courses through a variety of online providers. To access the information found in the clearinghouse go to: http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/\_layouts/GADOEPublic.SPApp/ClearingHouse.aspx

**Step One:** Type in the course you need (for example 9th grade Literature)

**Step Two:** Type in your zip code. You will then see a list of the online course providers in Georgia who have the course you selected. Their program names have been linked, so click on the program provider's name to access their site for registration information.