PROGRAM EVALUATION PLAN
VIRTUAL BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM AT SWAN CREEK SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

In an effort to provide flexibility and accessibility for the 21st century learner, Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) established the K-12 Blended Virtual Learning Program at Swan Creek School to meet the needs of all students who require more flexibility and services than what a traditional comprehensive school can offer.

The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted that some students not only prefer to learn virtually but excel in a virtual learning environment. During the 2021-2022 school year, HCPS will provide opportunities to students to participate in a blended virtual program option at Swan Creek School.

The Office of Research and Program Evaluation collaborated with the principals and staff at the Swan Creek School and district leadership to design a mixed-methods evaluation framework HCPS will use to monitor the implementation and the impact of the Blended Virtual Learning Program at Swan Creek School. This collaboration entails leveraging multiple methodologies to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the Swan Creek School's Blended Virtual Learning Program, including **survey research**, **qualitative research** (e.g., stakeholder **focus groups**), and **quantitative research** (e.g., student data analyses), and a **comprehensive capstone report**.

The goal of HCPS, in monitoring the implementation and the impact of the virtual learning programs at Swan Creek School, is to ensure that all students will have:

    a) Access to full range of enriched programs and opportunities in the online learning environment

    b) Equitable supports that will enhance their learning and success

    c) The same level of rigorous and comparable teaching and learning offered to face-to-face students

HCPS will create a comprehensive capstone report, focusing on the success of Virtual Program at Swan Creek School, that summarizes and synthesizes findings from the Virtual Learning Program projects listed on the following page of this document (Figure 1).

The capstone report will be publicly available via the HCPS website and will include, but not limited to:

1. Pre- and Post-Surveys data, findings and recommendations from parents, students, & educators

2. Key findings within and across stakeholder groups (Online Focus Groups: Virtual Teaching and Learning Experiences) and presents recommended next steps.

3. Summary of best practices including findings from the Virtual Classroom Observation Tools

4. Student engagement analysis and student performance data for all student groups

5. A comprehensive list of lessons learned from implementations (Year 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.)

6. Overall key findings and recommended next steps for program improvements and/or revisions

In the spring of 2021, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved the Swan Creek School virtual learning program. On August 24, 2021, MSDE shared information, at the State Board of Education meeting, related to the monitoring of approved virtual learning program in Maryland for 2021-2022 school year. During the meeting, MSDE provided an overview of the monitoring steps it will take to ensure student success through access to equitable and quality virtual programs at Local School Systems (LSS). The steps outlined in the evaluation plan by HCPS, to monitor the implementation and the impact of the virtual learning programs at Swan Creek School, are in alignment with the steps taken by MSDE. The implementation and findings of this program evaluation plan will provide answers to the MSDE "Look Fors" LSS in virtual Programs.

While Figure 1 provides an overview of the recommended evaluation framework, the remainder of the evaluation plan offers additional information on each research methodology and individual project.

Figure 1: Proposed Evaluation Framework — Virtual Learning Program

PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	PHASE(S)	ESTIMATED TIMELINE(S)
Virtual Learning Program (Pre-)Survey	Survey	Design	October 2021 February 2021
		Swan Creek School Feedback	
		Administration	
		Analysis	
Student Interviews Online Focus Groups: Virtual Teaching and Learning Experiences	Qualitative	Design	By April 30, 2022
		Swan Creek School Feedback	
		Recruitment	
		Administration	
		Analysis	
Virtual Classroom Observation Tools	Observational	Rubric and instrument design *(leverage current observation practices)*	Ongoing October 2021 May 2022
Student Engagement Analysis	Quantitative	Data review and methodology finalization	Spring 2022 Fall 2022
		Analysis	
Virtual Learning Program (Post-)Survey	Survey	Adjustments to design (optional)	May-June 2022
		Administration	
		Analysis	
PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	PHASE(S)	ESTIMATED TIMELINE(S)
Student Outcomes Analysis	Data Analysis	Data review and methodology finalization	Summer 2022 Fall 2022
		Analysis	
Teacher Outcomes Analysis	Data Analysis	Data review and methodology finalization	Spring 202 Fall 2022
		Analysis	
Capstone Report	---	Synthesis and analysis	Summer 2022 Fall 2022

HCPS also shares the logic model that informed the evaluation framework's design. When reviewing the logic model and evaluation framework, please note that individual projects can be added, adjusted, or removed throughout the school year and during the length of this evaluation project.