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How Online Schools Handle Curriculum, Exams, and Graduation

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There is a common misconception that online schools don't follow a structured approach to learning. In reality, reputable online schools have predefined regulations for each sector in addition to a graduation criterion.

If you're planning to enrol your child in an online school, but are concerned about the exact mechanism, we've got you covered. This brief guide explains how online schools handle curriculum, exams, and graduation. Let's break it down!

Curriculum in Online Schools

The curriculum in online schools is carefully designed to meet the same quality standards as a traditional school. For instance, **online schools in Washington State** would be accredited by the relevant, state-specific institute. This will ensure your child receives quality education that prepares them for higher education and the workforce.

Core subjects such as Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies are required. Whereas, electives include Art, Computer Science, Coding, or Foreign Languages. Your child will gain a well-rounded education.

But how do online schools deliver lectures or teach the aforementioned curriculum? Most schools use digital platforms known as Learning Management Systems (LMS). These platforms normally have two interfaces. The student interface provides access to video lectures, digital textbooks, assignments, and interactive activities.

Most online schools leverage easy-to-use platforms that don't require much technological knowledge.

Delivery methods can include:

- Live classes. Teachers can conduct classes in virtual classrooms.
- Personalised learning. Students can learn at their own pace.
- Interactive engagement. This includes message boards and forums.

The role of teachers

Teachers play a critical role in online education, especially in curriculum-related matters. They guide students through lessons, give feedback on assignments, and offer support through email. Moreover, teachers can arrange discussion sessions to resolve students' queries, facilitating learning.

Exams and Assessments

Assessments and exams are tools for online schools to assess students. The following types of assessments are most common:

- Online quizzes and tests
- Projects and essays
- Presentations
- Participation

Assignments help students apply what they have learned in a creative and practical manner.

Then come the exams. Online schools use numerous proctoring methods, including:

AI proctoring – software uses eye-tracking mechanisms and keystroke monitoring to prevent cheating.

Human proctoring – live invigilators watch via webcam. Students are required to share their surroundings.

Reputable online schools like Virtual Prep Academy leverage security measures, including:

- Secure browsers
- Plagiarism detection tools
- AI detection tools

Students are required to complete the exam under specific guidelines within the given time limit. The time period for grading can vary. Multiple-choice quizzes may be graded instantly by the system. But essays, projects, and open-ended questions are graded by teachers, who provide comments to help students improve.

Students can easily track their grades through their LMS.

Graduation Requirements

Lastly, most online schools have a credit system. Students earn credit by completing both core and elective courses. Moreover, to graduate, they would also need to pass the final exam and submit the required assignments.

Some online schools also require students to meet attendance or participation requirements. In the end, your child will get an accredited diploma, helping them secure college and university admissions.

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