

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

Q: What is Miami-Dade Online (MDO)?

A: MDO is a full-time, tuition-free public magnet school within the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) system. We offer a rigorous, specialized curriculum in a flexible, fully online environment for students in grades K-12.

Q: Do I need to live in Miami-Dade County to attend MDO?

A: No. Students that reside anywhere in the state of Florida may attend MDO.

Q: Is this school part of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS)?

A: Yes. We are a fully accredited M-DCPS magnet school. Our curriculum meets all Florida State Standards, and our teachers are all highly-qualified, Florida-certified educators who are specially trained in online instruction.

Q: Is there any tuition or cost to attend MDO Magnet?

A: No. As a public school, MDO is tuition-free for all eligible Florida residents. Students will need a computer with internet access and basic school supplies. There may be fees for optional field trips or in-person events.

Admissions & Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply to MDO Magnet?

A: Students must meet the minimum eligibility criteria for magnet programs, which typically includes a minimum 2.5 GPA, less than 10 unexcused absences during the prior school year, and Florida residency.

Q: How does my child apply?

A: Applications are either submitted through the official M-DCPS Magnet Schools application portal or the MDO website (MDOmagnet.net).

Academics & Curriculum

Q: What does the online learning format look like? Synchronous vs. Asynchronous?

A: Our program is a blend of both. Students attend live (synchronous) online classes with their teachers and classmates for direct instruction and collaboration. They also complete assignments, projects, and readings independently on a flexible schedule (asynchronous). This model promotes both structure and self-discipline.

Q: Do you offer Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Enrollment courses?

A: Yes! We offer a wide range of AP courses. Eligible high school students also have the opportunity to participate in Dual Enrollment, earning college credits from our partner institutions like Miami Dade College, all while attending MDO Magnet.

Q: What types of courses does MDO offer?

A: We offer a wide range of core curriculum and electives. The core curriculum (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) is offered on both a regular and honors track for secondary students. Please visit MDOmagnet.net to see our full catalog of courses.

Q: Who offers the online curriculum?

A: MDO partners with K12 to provide a specialized curriculum and online learning experience. K12 is an industry leader in online education, allowing students to learn at their own pace, based on their unique needs and interests. The curriculum was developed by an experienced team of educators using proven instructional approaches to create an engaging, interactive learning environment.

The K12 curriculum is specifically designed to be online and fit students' learning needs in grades K–12. Students attend scheduled, live classes where state-certified teachers provide instruction. These are called Class Connect sessions and may involve group work and project-based learning, and they offer opportunities for students to interact with each other and the teacher one-to-one if needed. Other schoolwork happens through offline assignments and activities that students can complete more at their own pace within the week's schedule.

Q: Does my child need to participate in state testing?

A: Yes! All students enrolled at MDO must participate in state testing during the month of April/May. Testing and dates vary depending on grade level.

Q: How much time will online school take my child each day?

A: Students should spend 5 to 6 hours per day learning, just like they would at a traditional school. The time commitment varies depending on the student's grade level and course load.

Q: Will my high school student receive a diploma?

A: Yes! MDO is an accredited institution, allowing students to receive a full M-DCPS high school diploma.

Technology Requirements & Support

11. Q: What technology will my student need to be successful?

A: Students need a quiet, dedicated workspace, a reliable high-speed internet connection, and a modern computer (desktop or laptop) with a webcam and microphone.

Q: Does the school provide a laptop?

A: Yes. As part of the M-DCPS 1:1 digital initiative, every student enrolled at MDO Magnet may check out a school laptop for the academic year. The school laptop will be returned to the school at the end of the school year. Device insurance through M-DCPS must be purchased prior to receiving a laptop.

Student Life & The Parent Role

Q: What is the expected role of the parent/guardian?

A: Parents and guardians act as the "Learning Coach" at home. While our teachers handle all instruction and grading, the Learning Coach ensures the student is online for live classes, has a productive learning environment, and helps them manage their time for independent work. This partnership is crucial for student success.

Q: Does my child have to log in during a specific time for lessons?

A: One of the best aspects of MDO is the flexibility for students to work at their own pace from virtually anywhere. The curriculum is available 24/7 and can be accessed in most parts of the world. We have many students that travel and can still complete their schoolwork from their destination. Teacher lessons are scheduled at particular times, but all lessons are recorded so a student can easily catch up later.

Q: Are students able to participate in sports?

A: Yes, students are able to participate in sports with their attendance home school. The team coach will reach out to our office to verify enrollment in M-DCPS.

Q: Are there student activities?

A: MDO offers both virtual and in-person field trips. There are also clubs and academic competitions available on the K12 platform.

Q: Is there an in-person graduation?

A: Yes! All of our graduating seniors have the opportunity to attend an in-person graduation and walk across the stage to receive their diploma. Venues, dates, and time vary from year to year.