



# Phoenix Academy

*"A Place Where HOPE Delivers..."*

## Mission and Vision

**Mission:** To inspire and challenge students to learn, grow and accomplish academic, social and post-secondary goals.

**Vision:** To provide students with a circle of support that leads to the development of resilient and empowered students.

## Philosophy

At Phoenix Academy, we believe that all students should understand that attending Phoenix is a privilege. We turn no student away who meets the criteria. Ultimately, we are committed to providing the best education possible to help ensure student success. The goals of Phoenix Academy are:

- ❖ To provide flexible methods of instruction that address all student needs.
- ❖ To provide a safe learning environment in which students can achieve both academic and personal success.
- ❖ To provide clear behavioral and attendance guidelines that will allow optimal student success while attending Phoenix Academy.
- ❖ To encourage personal accountability and academic responsibility and integrity for learning.
- ❖ To provide an opportunity for students to recover credits within a semester or year in time to return back to their home school.

## Purpose

The Phoenix Academy is a comprehensive alternative setting that serves and supports students in grades 9-12. Through our innovative scheduling, small classroom sizes, extensive wrap around services and Career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs, we offer a second chance for Atlanta Public School students. In addition, the **Phoenix Academy** focuses on academic performance in a positive behavioral intervention and support setting, while taking full advantage of technology-based learning resources.

## Program Format

The Academy is divided into 3 academic settings: **Phoenix East, Phoenix West, and Phoenix AVA.**

**Phoenix East** utilizes a quarterly system with classes lasting 9 weeks in length. Four class periods are offered per school day in a 75 minute block per class period. Students have the opportunity to complete sixteen (16) classes and earn eight (8) credits within a school year. Students are also afforded the opportunity to recover classes during their 4<sup>th</sup> period. During this time, students can complete additional classes via Edgenuity platform and/or AVA, to earn additional credits towards graduation. Enrollment in **Phoenix East** is slightly different from the enrollment in **Phoenix West**, which typically begins two (2) weeks prior to the

beginning of each quarter. Enrollment dates are sent out to Principals, Assistant Principals, Professional School Counselors, and Graduation Coaches a week prior to open registration.

**Phoenix West** is divided into 2 semesters with a continuous enrollment throughout the year. Six class periods are offered per school day in a 60 minute block. Students may work at their own pace towards graduation requirements. The number of credits earned during that semester is dependent on how quickly a student is willing and able to successfully complete the requirements of the course.

**Atlanta Virtual Academy** is a full-time online option. Technology is used to connect students, parents, and teachers which allows students 24/7 access to their courses. AVA's certified teachers provide instruction and online communication to assist students with their learning. Students can take all their core, world language, AP, CTAE and elective courses online, anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

## Benefits

With the large percentage of students within the district who are over age and/or are not being successful in the traditional learning environments, Phoenix's model allows students to accelerate their progress and fill "gaps" with classes needed in order to meet each students' distinct academic needs.

- ❖ Phoenix provides students who are experiencing difficulty in their home schools, for any number of reasons, a means by which to continue their education and receive a high school diploma.
- ❖ Phoenix provides students with child(ren) the opportunity to continue their education, with the support of on-site childcare. (Students must complete CAPS application.)
- ❖ Phoenix provides small classroom sizes of 15-20 students.
- ❖ Phoenix provides an opportunity for seniors to participate in their home school graduation ceremony.
- ❖ Phoenix provides all other students an opportunity to return to their home school once they are back on track with their cohort.
- ❖ Phoenix provides mental health support (onsite Wellsprings program), social worker support, Communities In Schools support, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training, and access to the clothing closet and food pantry.
- ❖ Phoenix provides CTAE experience and certification.
- ❖ Phoenix offers Dual enrollment opportunities, Job readiness training, and job placement opportunities.
- ❖ Phoenix offers an On-site GED program.

## Admission Requirements

In order to be admitted to Phoenix Academy:

1. A student must have attended a high school for at least 1 semester prior to enrollment at Phoenix and/or successfully completed 1 semester of enrollment with the Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA). Parents and/or guardians must physically enroll students under the age of 18 (unless the student is emancipated).
2. Phoenix East candidates for enrollment must have a minimum of two (2) credits.

3. Phoenix West candidates for enrollment must have a minimum of Twelve (12) credits.
4. A student can be recommended by his/her home school counselor, administrator, parent(s), peer, and/or a staff member from the Office of Student Discipline or Department of Student Support and Intervention.
5. Students who receive Tier 2 or 3 supports should provide documentation of interventions upon enrollment.
6. Prior to acceptance, students who receive special services must complete an IEP Review Committee meeting which will determine if Phoenix can meet the student's needs.
7. Prior to enrollment, all students, parents and/or guardians must attend a **MANDATORY** orientation, which supports expectations, family engagement, and student success. All students/parents will have an interview scheduled prior to the orientation date in order to better understand the needs of each student.
8. The Phoenix Academy reserves the right to hold an enrollment conference with students and parents of students who are over age, not currently on grade level, and do not otherwise meet Phoenix Academy admission requirements.

## Methods of Instruction

Phoenix Academy is a blended learning environment which utilizes a variety of instructional methods that supports teaching and learning. These researched-based methods include:

- ❖ **Blended Learning Model** which addresses the needs of students experiencing academic, socio-emotional, and behavioral challenges.
- ❖ **Face-to-Face Model** is used to support and differentiate the needs of all students.
- ❖ **Atlanta Virtual Academy, (AVA)** supports virtual learning for initial credit, unit recovery, and credit recovery. AVA courses are accessible 24 hours a day for students with access to computer and/or mobile devices and WIFI connectivity. Courses are offered in the four core subjects (English, Social Science, Math, Social Science), Foreign Language, AP, and Honor Courses.
- ❖ **Georgia Credit Recovery** is the GADOE Credit Recovery Program which provides students, who did not initially succeed in obtaining course credit, with the opportunity to retake a course to earn credit towards graduation. Credit Recovery courses have flexible schedules and are not facilitated by a teacher. The Credit Recovery Program offers core courses and limited electives. Additionally, the program is provided free to participating Georgia public high school students for all first time enrollments. However, the local school will incur a fee for re-enrollments, which may, in turn, be passed on to students.

With this menu of learning models, class schedules will vary and are differentiated in quarter and semester systems. All methods of Instruction support student success.

## Student Responsibilities

1. Class attendance is mandatory for the Blended Learning and Face-2-Face models.
2. Students must be on time to all classes.
3. Students must bring an original copy of documentation for excused absences to the registrar's office upon their return. Copies will be made in the registration office and returned to the student.
4. Students are responsible for their own conduct. Appropriate behavior is required at all times. Any student who violates the Atlanta Public Schools Student Code of Conduct will be subject to discipline as prescribed in the Code which can include but is not limited to a meeting with an Accountability Partner/Restorative Justice to support desired behaviors. In addition, as a viable resource when appropriate, recommendation for Job Corps, GED Programs, JUMA, and or/Youth Challenge Program.
5. Students may re-enroll at their home school at any time.

## Graduation Requirements

Students graduating during the 2019-2020 School Year must meet the standard graduation requirements of all Atlanta Public School students. They must complete 24 units: Math (4), English (4), Science (4), Social Studies (3), Foreign Language (2), Health, Physical Education and Personal Fitness (2), CTAE (1), Electives (4). Additionally students must complete **75** hours of community service.

## Programmatic Difference At a Glance

	Phoenix East	Phoenix West	Phoenix AVA Online
<b>Instructional Method</b>	Face-to-Face and Blended Learning	Blended Learning	100% Virtual
<b>Entry Grade Level for Enrollment</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	*11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Academic Term</b>	Quarter	Semester	Semester
<b>Academic Terms offered per year</b>	4	2	2
<b>Class Periods per Day</b>	4	6	Up to 6
<b>Duration of Class Periods</b>	75	60	Flexible
<b>Max Credits per Year</b>	Minimum 8 (Contingent on credit recovery success)	No max – Student works at his/her own pace	No Max
<b>Max Classes per Year</b>	Minimum 16 (Contingent on Credit Recovery success)	No max – Student works at his/her own pace	No Max
<b>Opportunity to Recover Class Credits?</b>	Yes – Students can recover credits daily during 4 <sup>th</sup> period	Yes – Student works at his/her own pace to recover credits	Yes – Student can recover through AVA Credit Recovery
<b>Enrollment Restrictions</b>	Students should enroll by the cut-off date for each quarter for the best possible opportunity for academic success.	None as it relates to cut-off dates.	Students must enroll by the cut-off date for each quarter. There are two enrollment windows for each school year.

