

Florida Public Virtual Schools Questions and Answers (2012-13)

- [General Information About Virtual \(Online\) Education](#)
- [Virtual Education Options for 2012-13](#)
- [District Virtual Instruction Program \(VIP\)](#)
- [District Virtual Course Offerings](#)
- [Florida Virtual School Part-Time](#)
- [Florida Virtual School Full-time](#)
- [District Franchises of Florida Virtual School](#)
- [Virtual Charter Schools](#)
- [Student Eligibility and Participation](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [Exceptional Student Education \(ESE\)](#)
- [English Speaking for Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#)
- [Funding and Reporting](#)
- [Role of the Department of Education \(DOE\)](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VIRTUAL (ONLINE) EDUCATION

1. *What is a “virtual instruction program”?*

[Section 1002.45\(1\), Florida Statutes](#), defines a “virtual instruction program” as one that takes place in an interactive learning environment created through technology in which the student and teacher are separated from each other by time or space or both.

2. *Are online courses offered at a specific time during the school day?*

By their nature, online courses do not have to be offered at a specific time of the day. Online teachers primarily interact with and instruct students on an individual basis using different methods of communication at various times of the day. Online teachers may also set up group sessions at specific times to cover selected topics or to provide additional help for students. Virtual courses offered by school districts to students in district school buildings may be provided during a specific time of the school day, although access to curriculum may often take place anytime.

3. *Do online teachers have to meet the same certification and background screening requirements as other public school teachers in Florida?*

Florida’s virtual programs and schools require teachers to hold appropriate Florida teaching certificates and/or endorsements in the areas of instruction. In addition, all instructional personnel must go through the same background screening (fingerprinting) that teachers in traditional schools undergo.

4. *Does the virtual curriculum and course content in public virtual education programs have to meet state standards?*

Yes. The virtual curriculum and courses are required to meet state and national standards.

5. *Can students take specialized courses such as Advanced Placement or gifted through virtual programs or schools?*

Yes. Most of Florida's virtual schools offer these types of courses. However, as with other schools and programs, not every course or option is available at every school. To find out the specific options available, interested parents should contact Florida Virtual School or their school districts directly. The following website includes links for Florida's various virtual education options: <http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/>

6. *How can those interested in teaching in one of Florida's virtual programs apply for a teaching position?*

Florida has both state-level and district-level virtual programs and schools. The following website includes information about employment with Florida's virtual programs and schools: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/eo.asp>

VIRTUAL EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR 2012-13 (BACK TO TOP)

7. *Section 1002.321, Florida Statutes, related to digital learning requires districts to provide multiple opportunities for students to participate in virtual instruction. What types of opportunities are included in this requirement?*

This requirement can be fulfilled using part-time and full-time virtual options offered through Florida Virtual School (FLVS), school districts or virtual charter schools. Specifically these opportunities include: Florida Virtual School's full-time (FLVS FT) and Florida Virtual School's part-time (FLVS PT) schools, district virtual instruction programs, district franchises of FLVS, virtual charter schools, blended learning in charter schools, virtual and blended learning courses in traditional schools, and the online courses districts can offer for any course in the Course Code Directory.

8. *How does the requirement in section 1002.321, Florida Statutes, for districts to offer multiple opportunities for virtual instruction relate to the requirement in section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, that districts offer either one or three options of their district virtual instruction programs?*

The requirement to provide multiple opportunities in section 1002.321 encompasses all virtual options offered at the district and state levels. The requirement in section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, refers only to the options for district-level virtual instruction programs listed in section 1002.45(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

9. *What virtual education options are authorized for the 2012-13 school year?*

Options include:

- Florida Virtual School (full-time and part-time)
- District virtual instruction programs (VIPs)
- District franchises of FLVS
- Virtual courses delivered to students in traditional public schools

- District virtual course offerings (individual online courses) outside of traditional school settings
- Virtual charter schools

In addition to virtual education options, blended learning opportunities may be offered in traditional district schools and brick and mortar charter schools.

10. *What options are available through Florida Virtual School (FLVS)?*

FLVS offers both part-time and full-time options:

FLVS Part-time (FLVS PT)— operates three schools to offer a supplemental online option (online courses) for Florida students in grades K-12. The middle and high school together offer over 125 courses for grades 6-12 students statewide. FLVS will launch its new elementary part-time school with a few courses at selected grade levels in 2012-13. For more information about FLVS PT please visit the following website: www.flvs.com

FLVS Full-time (FLVS FT) — operates two schools (grades K-8 and grades 9-12) to offer a full-time grades K-12 public online program at the state level. These full-time virtual schools are school choice options for all students across the state. School districts and virtual charter schools may also contract with Florida Virtual School to provide the FLVS FT program to district public school students. More information about the FLVS FT may be found at: www.flvsft.com

11. *What options are available through school districts?*

All school districts offer district VIPs as a school choice option for their students in grades K-12. Many school districts also operate franchises of FLVS and/or offer individual online courses to students in and out of traditional school settings. The following website includes a link for a table of district virtual contacts and websites: <http://www.fl DOE.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp>

12. *What new virtual education options are available for the 2012-13 school year?*

The 2012 Legislature authorized FLVS to offer a part-time virtual education option (online courses) for students in grades K-5. In addition, they expanded one of the part-time options for district VIPs to include grades K-8 courses (in addition to the grades 9-12 courses) that are measured by statewide assessments or Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

13. *Can home education students participate in the new part-time options for elementary students offered by FLVS and school districts?*

Home education students in grades K-1 may participate in the new part-time options at the elementary level offered by FLVS or school districts. Home education students in grades 2-5 must meet one of the eligibility criteria in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes. The primary criterion is prior-year enrollment in a Florida public school. Exceptions include military dependents who recently moved to Florida and siblings of students in the virtual program both at the end of the prior year and in the current year.

14. *How can parents find out more about the virtual education options available for their children?*

Interested parents should contact FLVS or their school districts directly to obtain more specific information about the virtual programs or courses they offer. The following website has information about and links to Florida's various virtual education options:

<http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/>.

District Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) ([BACK TO TOP](#))

15. *How are full-time district virtual instruction programs (VIPs) provided?*

District VIPs provide instruction to eligible district students using online and distance education technology in a nontraditional classroom, i.e., primarily outside of public school buildings. In practice, most students access the online instruction from their homes.

16. *What types of virtual instruction are available through district VIPs?*

A school district virtual instruction program shall consist of the following:

- Full-time virtual instruction for students in grades K-12
- Part-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in grade K-12 courses that are measured by FCAT 2.0, End of Course (EOC), or AP exams
- Full-time or part-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in dropout prevention, academic intervention programs and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) programs; core courses to meet class size requirements and grades K-12 courses offered by Florida College System institutions for this program.

17. *Do all districts offer virtual instruction programs?*

All school districts offer VIPs. The law requires districts with low and sparse populations to offer one option and all other districts to offer three options. The number of options required is determined by whether the district is eligible for the Sparsity Supplement in the state funding formula. The following website lists the number of options required for each district:

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/pdf/SparsitySupplement.pdf>

18. *For districts having to meet the three-option requirement, can these options include all virtual options offered by the district and FLVS or must they be provided within the district's VIP only?*

Districts are to provide three options within their district VIP.

19. *What options may districts use to provide district VIPs?*

Districts may use the following options to offer virtual instruction for their students:

- provide a district-operated virtual instruction program
- contract with FLVS
- establish a franchise of FLVS
- contract with an approved provider
- enter into an agreement with another district, Florida college or virtual charter school.

Contracts with FLVS and approved providers may include multidistrict agreements executed by a regional consortium for its member districts.

20. *For the districts required to offer three options, must three options be provided for all grade levels?*

Yes.

21. *Are districts required to provide three options for both part-time and full-time totaling six options?*

The options relate to who is providing the virtual instruction program—FLVS, franchises, approved providers, other districts, virtual charters or Florida colleges. From these, districts are required to provide three, not six, options for a virtual instruction program for students in grades K-12.

22. *What school numbers are used for district virtual instruction programs?*

Two school numbers are designated for district virtual instruction programs. School number 7001 should be used for virtual instruction programs operated by approved private providers, FLVS, a Florida college, or a virtual charter school. Providers for school 7001 are also issued a Provider Code which is reported on the Student Course Record. The provider code allows student performance results to be aggregated under each provider for the issuance of Provider school grades.

School number 7023 has been designated for district-operated virtual instruction programs. School districts must request activation of this school number on the following website if they operate their own virtual instruction program:

<http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/EDS/MasterSchoolID/index.cfm>

The virtual school and district are held accountable for the performance of virtual students enrolled under this school number.

23. *Who are the Department of Education (DOE)-approved private providers for the 2012-13 school year?*

The approved private providers are:

- Advanced Academics (grades 9-12)
- Educational Options, Inc. (grades 6-12)
- Florida Connections Academy, LLC (grades K-12)
- K12 Florida, LLC (grades K-12)
- The National Network of Digital Schools (grades K-12)
- Somerset Academy, Inc. (grades 6-12)

For more information on the approved private providers, please visit the following website:

<http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp>

24. *What options are available for districts at the elementary level?*

Districts may operate their own elementary virtual program or may contract with FLVS, an approved provider, another school district, a Florida college or a virtual charter school. The approved private providers for the elementary level are K12, Connections Academy (Partnered with FLVS FT) or the National Network of Digital Schools.

25. *Which courses are considered “core courses to meet class size requirements?”*

Section 1003.01(14), Florida Statutes, defines core-curricula courses that are subject to maximum class size requirements as those courses defined by the DOE as follows:

- Courses in mathematics, language arts/reading, science and social studies in grades PK-3
- Courses in grades 4-8 that are measured by state assessments at any grade level and courses required for middle school promotion
- Courses in grades 9-12 that are measured by state assessments at any grade level and courses that are specifically named in statute as required for high school graduation
- Exceptional Student Education courses
- English for Speakers of Other Languages courses

“Extra-curricular” courses are not included and are defined as those not listed above including, but not limited to, physical education, career education courses, fine arts, performing arts and courses that may result in college credit.

Appendix S of the Automated Student Information System lists these courses:

http://www.fldoe.org/eias/dataweb/student_1213.asp#APPENDICES

26. *When may students enroll in district virtual instruction programs?*

Section 1002.45, Florida Statutes requires districts to provide at least one enrollment period of 90 days or more which ends 30 days before the first day of the school year.

27. *May districts offer additional enrollment windows for district virtual instruction programs at times other than that specified in law?*

Yes. Districts must offer the enrollment window specified in law but may offer other enrollment windows as well. For example, many districts enroll students through the start of school and for the second semester. Some districts also have a window of opportunity at the same time as enrollment for other school choice options in the district.

28. *Would placing the enrollment period in the district’s student progression plan, parent resource guide, and on the website meet that requirement to notify parents of the district’s open enrollment period?*

Districts must notify parents directly in writing about the required enrollment window. This notification may be included in other materials distributed to parents. However, placing the dates of the enrollment window on the website or including the information in documents parents would have to locate on their own would not meet this requirement.

29. *What must parents do and what documentation is needed to enroll their children in their school district's VIP?*

This may vary from district to district. Parents should contact their school district directly to determine how to enroll their children in the district's program and what documents are required for enrollment. The following website includes a link to a table of contact information for all Florida school districts: <http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp>

30. *May students enroll directly in another district's virtual instruction program if the option provided by the other district is not available in the student's district of residence?*

No. A student may only enroll in another district's virtual instruction program if his or her school district has selected it as one of the options for its students and has entered into an agreement with the other district to provide that option.

31. *Must district virtual instruction program teachers be Florida-certified?*

All teachers providing instruction for this program, including Florida college teachers, must hold valid Florida teaching certificates in the appropriate areas of instruction, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Reading certifications/endorsements, if applicable.

32. *Must virtual instruction program teachers reside in the school district?*

No. The law does not include residency requirements for teachers; therefore, the teachers can live anywhere.

33. *Are school districts required to provide instructional materials for students in the school district VIP?*

Districts are required to provide the necessary instructional materials for students to participate in this program.

34. *Are school districts required to provide computers, printers, and Internet access for students in the district VIP?*

The district must provide each full-time student enrolled in VIP who qualifies for free or reduced priced lunches under the National School Lunch Act, or who is on the direct certification list, and who does not have a computer or Internet access in his or her home with all equipment necessary to participate in the program. This includes, but is not limited to, a computer, a computer monitor, a printer (if necessary for the program) and access to or reimbursement for Internet services.

35. *If the district contracts with an approved private provider to provide a full-time virtual instruction program, who is responsible for the provision of technology, when necessary?*

This would be addressed in the district contract with the provider. The district is ultimately responsible; however, the contract could specify that the provider provide the technology and the costs associated for doing so.

36. *Will district VIP students be required to register as home education students in their district of residence since they will receive their virtual instruction primarily from home?*

No. These students are district public school students, not home education students. The school district VIP will be the school of record for its full-time students.

37. *How will students in the school district's VIP participate in state testing when they take their virtual classes from home?*

The district of residence is to provide testing facilities for these students. However, the district can designate the testing sites within the school district. Examples include, but are not limited to, assigning each student to the school he or she would have attended, designating a central testing site or providing regional sites.

38. *How are decisions related to promotion, retention, or grade placement made for students participating in the school district's VIP?*

The district's student progression plan establishes the procedures/requirements with regard to students progressing from one grade to another. The district VIP is simply another avenue for the provision of instruction. All of the existing requirements related to student progression, including retention, promotion, and grade assignment, are the same for school district VIP students as they are for other students enrolled in the district.

39. *Must students in a district VIP meet compulsory attendance requirements?*

Yes. The law specifies that students meet compulsory attendance requirements. This means attendance must be taken for students in this program and these students have the same guidelines related to truancy as students in brick and mortar schools.

40. *How is attendance taken in a full-time virtual instruction program for students who access their instruction and curriculum from home?*

Taking attendance is mandatory and must be recorded on a regular and ongoing basis. Generally, the parent or learning coach is responsible for logging the attendance on a daily or hourly basis using their individual accounts. Online teachers and virtual school administrators are responsible for verifying and confirming the recorded attendance. They do this by examining participation metrics such as student login data; lessons, assignments, projects and assessments completed; email and phone logs; student participation in discussion boards, blogs and live lessons, etc. Virtual schools must maintain auditable attendance records and provide attendance information to school districts for state-required reporting to the DOE Automated Student Information System during Survey 5.

41. *How is the district VIP held accountable for student performance?*

The district VIP is held accountable in several ways:

- It is a school choice program, so parents can choose this option or other educational options for their children.
- Its funding is performance-based—that is, based on “successful completions.” If a student does not pass a virtual course or successfully complete the prescribed level of content that counts toward promotion, the student will not earn funding for that course or content.
- The provider, the school district or both receive school grades based on student performance on state testing. The provider earns a single grade for the performance of all of its students statewide. If the school district operates its own program or a portion of the program, it will receive a school grade based on the performance of the students participating in its program. In addition, The DOE will produce a report for each part-time provider of virtual instruction programs which will include a summary of the FCAT 2.0, EOC and AP results for their part-time students.

District Virtual Course Offerings [\(BACK TO TOP\)](#)

42. *May school districts offer virtual courses in addition to those offered by their brick and mortar public schools, district virtual instruction programs or district franchises of Florida Virtual School?*

Yes. Districts are authorized to offer such courses by section 1003.498, Florida Statutes. These courses will be reported under school number 7006. If a district plans to offer such courses, it should contact the DOE’s Education Information and Accountability Services office to activate this school number. <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/EDS/MasterSchoolID/index.cfm>

43. *For what courses and grade levels may districts offer virtual courses under section 1003.498, Florida Statutes?*

Districts may offer virtual courses for courses included in the Course Code Directory. This Directory includes courses from K-12.

44. *What students are eligible to take these virtual courses?*

District students taking online courses in traditional district schools must be full-time students at the school. Students accessing district virtual courses in a nontraditional setting must meet the eligibility requirements listed in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes (located at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/1002.455>). Students eligible to enroll in kindergarten and first grade are eligible. Thus, students in grades 2-12 must meet one of the other criteria to enroll in these courses on a part-time basis.

An eligible student from another school district may take one of these virtual courses if his or her district does not offer it as an online course at the district level or as a course (online or face-to-face) at the school level. However, if the student does not have access to the course due to a scheduling conflict, he or she may take the online course from the other district.

45. *What guidance is available on the enrollment, reporting and funding for students taking virtual courses from other school districts?*

The DOE issued Division of Public Schools (DPS) Memorandum 2011-131 and created a model form to provide guidance about the information that should be collected and verified at the point of enrollment in another district's virtual course. The memo and form can be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/districtvirtual.asp>. In addition, the FTE General Instructions addresses the reporting and funding of these students. The FTE General Instructions for the most current school year can be located at: <http://www.fldoe.org/fejp/fteinstr.asp>

46. *Can a student enroll directly in a course offered by another school district?*

The student must notify his or her school of the intention to enroll in an online course in another school district so that the necessary information can be collected, verified and confirmed by both districts at the point of enrollment. This will help to ensure the correct funding, reporting and accountability for this student. The school cannot deny access to the other district's course as long as the student meets the eligibility requirements, the course is appropriate based on the student's academic history and the student does not have access to the course in his or her district or school.

47. *If the district does not offer Algebra IA or Algebra IB, does it have to allow students to take these courses from another school district?*

Yes. A student should be allowed to take a course not offered in his or her school district from another school district if it is an appropriate course for the student based on his or her academic history.

Florida Virtual School Part-Time (FLVS PT) (BACK TO TOP)

48. *What type of part-time program does FLVS PT offer?*

FLVS PT operates three schools to offer a part-time program (individual online courses) for Florida students. FLVS PT Grades 6-8 (school number 0500) and FLVS PT Grades 9-12 (school number 0600) offer over 125 individual online courses for middle and high school students. These courses include core and elective courses and range from credit recovery and general to advanced, Honors and AP courses. FLVS provides course tours and a course catalog from its main website at www.flvs.com.

FLVS will launch its newly-authorized part-time elementary school (FLVS PT Grades K-5) in 2012-13 with a few courses at selected grade levels. The designated school number for this school is 0700. For information on this new part-time school, please contact FLVS directly (email to info@flvs.net or call **Toll Free:** 800.374.1430)

49. *Which students are eligible to enroll in FLVS courses on a part-time basis?*

Florida students (public, private and home education) in grades 6-12 are eligible to enroll in FLVS middle and high school courses. Students enrolling in the new elementary courses must

meet one of the eligibility criteria specified in law (section 1002.455, Florida Statutes). The eligibility criteria include students eligible to enroll in kindergarten or first grade. Therefore, students in grades 2-5 will be required to meet one of the other criteria. This statute is located at: (<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/1002.455>)

50. *Will grade 6-12 students still be able to take online courses from FLVS beyond the school day and year and earn funding for those courses in addition to the funding earned in the school district?*

Students in grades 6-12 in district public schools will still be able to take courses beyond the school day and year and earn funding for both the school district and FLVS. The school district may report up to 1.0 FTE for instruction provided by the district school, and FLVS may report FTE for additional online courses successfully completed. The law prohibits FLVS from reporting more than 1.0 FTE for students enrolled in FLVS FT; therefore, public school students enrolled in this school may not take courses from the FLVS PT school beyond the school day or year.

51. *Is funding provided for elementary students to take FLVS courses beyond the school day and year?*

No. The combined total of FTE reported by both the school district and FLVS may not exceed 1.0 FTE.

52. *Are students in grades 4-5 still limited to taking middle school courses from FLVS?*

No. Grades 4-5 students are no longer limited to taking middle school courses.

53. *Will home education students who take six or more classes from FLVS PT still be required to be registered as home education students in their district of residence?*

Yes. FLVS PT is a supplemental program offering individual online courses to public, private and home education students. If a student enrolls in online courses offered by FLVS PT and is not enrolled in a district public school or a Florida private school, the student must register as a home education student in his or her school district to meet compulsory attendance requirements.

54. *Will home education students enrolled in virtual courses with EOC exams be allowed to take the EOC assessments?*

Home education students may take the EOC assessment if they are using the assessment as part of their annual evaluation.

55. *Are registered home school elementary students allowed to participate in the part-time elementary virtual program?*

Home education students at the elementary level will be able to enroll in an online course if they are eligible to enter grades K or 1, attended a Florida public school full-time the previous

year or if they meet one of the other eligibility criteria in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes (<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/1002.455>)

Florida Virtual School Full-time (FLVS FT) (BACK TO TOP)

56. *What type of virtual program is offered by FLVS FT?*

FLVS FT is comprised of two full-time schools in District 71 at the state level—one for students in grades K-8 (school number 0300) and the other for students in grades 9-12 (school number 0400). To provide this option, FLVS FT partnered with Connections Academy, a national provider of full-time virtual education. FLVS FT combines the learning resources and expertise of both partners and offers a comprehensive educational program designed to enable students to meet Florida’s student progression, promotion and graduation requirements. For more information about this school, please visit www.flvsft.com.

57. *What students are eligible to enroll in FLVS FT?*

All Florida students regardless of prior school experience (public, private and home education) are eligible to enroll in the FLVS FT public school.

58. *Will students enroll directly in FLVS FT?*

Yes. Students will be able to register directly and FLVS will be their school of record (enrollment). FLVS will be responsible and held accountable for their progress.

59. *Will students enrolled in FLVS FT be required to register as home education students in their district of residence?*

No. Students in this full-time school will be public school students and therefore, will not need to register as home education students in their districts of residence.

60. *Will FLVS FT offer all grade levels in 2012-13?*

The FLVS FT Public Program offers all grades K-12 and will begin issuing diplomas in the 2012-13 school year.

61. *Are FLVS FT students required to take all state assessments?*

Yes. FLVS FT students are public school students and are required to meet all public school requirements, including participation in state assessments.

62. *How will FLVS FT students take state assessments when they access their virtual instruction from home and they are scattered all over the state?*

Florida school districts are required to administer state assessments for FLVS FT students residing in their districts. Recent legislation requires districts to administer these tests in the schools to which FLVS FT students would attend if they were district students. State assessments include all state assessments these students are required to take, including

kindergarten screening, FCAT, End-of-Course exams and Postsecondary education readiness assessments, e.g. PERT.

63. *Will FLVS FT receive a school grade?*

Yes. FLVS FT will receive a school grade for each of the two full-time schools based on the performance of their full-time public school students.

District Franchises of Florida Virtual School ([BACK TO TOP](#))

64. *What are district franchises of Florida Virtual School (FLVS)?*

Florida school districts may choose to enter an agreement with FLVS to operate a district franchise. These franchises are district virtual schools with district administrators and district teachers who provide virtual instruction for district students. This school uses FLVS curriculum, other educational resources and the FLVS Learning Management System (LMS) and Student Information System (SIS). FLVS also provides training and mentoring for district teachers and administrators.

65. *How many school districts will operate district franchises in 2012-13?*

Fifty-four school districts and two university lab schools will operate franchises in 2012-13.

66. *What students are eligible to enroll in district franchises?*

All grades 6-12 students (public, private and home education) who reside in a district that operates a franchise are eligible to enroll in the franchise as full-time or part-time students. Elementary programs are not available through district franchises yet.

67. *Where may parents obtain additional information about district franchises and find out if their district operates a franchise?*

Parents may find additional information about district franchises of FLVS from their school district and at the following websites:

DOE website: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/virtual-schools/district-franchises.asp>

FLVS website: <http://www.flvs.net/educators/Pages/FranchiseInformation.aspx>

68. *If a school district uses its franchise of FLVS to meet one of the required options for its virtual instruction program, can the franchise continue to operate as it has in the past and offer courses to other students as well?*

Yes. A school district may use its franchise as one of its options to provide a district virtual instruction program and continue to serve other students not eligible for the district virtual instruction programs, such as part-time home education and private school students.

69. *If a district uses a franchise of FLVS to meet requirements to offer its district VIP, will students be reported under school number 7001 or the franchise school number of 7004?*

Students who enroll in district franchises, no matter what the reason, should be reported under school number 7004.

70. *Will district franchises be able to report successful student completions for funding through June 30th as they did last year?*

Yes. Districts may report completions for students enrolled in district franchises until the end of the Survey 4 reporting period.

71. *Do districts require immunization records be filed for home education students attending a franchise of FLVS?*

Districts are required to collect and report immunization information for home education students enrolled in their franchise only if they participate in activities at a brick and mortar school in the district (e.g., those who participate in classes, extra-curricular activities, or state testing).

Virtual Charter Schools ([BACK TO TOP](#))

72. *Will the Department create a new model charter school application for virtual charter schools?*

Yes. A new Model Virtual Charter School Application (Form IEPC-VI) and a Model Virtual Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument (Form IEPC-V2) have been developed and approved by the State Board of Education. Copies of these forms can be obtained at the following website:

http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/Forms_Charter.asp

73. *How can a current charter school become a virtual charter school?*

A charter school must submit an application for approval to its sponsor to open a new charter school (virtual) or amend its existing contract. If a charter school submits a new application to its sponsor, the application must include documentation that the applicant has contracted with FLVS or an approved provider of virtual instruction services. The list of approved providers is located on the following website:

<http://www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp>

74. *Can only current charter schools apply to be a virtual charter school?*

No. Virtual charter schools are not limited to current charter schools.

75. *What steps are required to become a virtual charter school in Florida?*

To become a virtual charter school, the applicant must contract with FLVS or a DOE-approved virtual instruction program provider to provide the charter school's virtual instruction program. The interested party must submit a virtual charter application using the Model Virtual Charter School application to the school district in which it would like to operate.

Documentation of the contract with an approved provider must be included with the application. Virtual charter applicants follow the same timelines for approval as applicants for regular charter schools. Charter applications are due on August 1 of the year prior to the planned opening.

The model Virtual Charter School Application is located at the following website:

http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Charter_Schools/Forms_Charter.asp.

76. *Can virtual charter schools provide part-time virtual instruction?*

No. Virtual charter schools are authorized to provide full-time virtual instruction.

77. *What grade levels may virtual charter schools serve?*

Virtual charter schools may serve eligible district students in grades K-12.

78. *How are virtual charter schools funded?*

Funding for virtual charter schools will be the same as that specified for district virtual instruction programs in section 1002.45(7), Florida Statutes and section 1011.61(1)(c)1.b.(III), Florida Statutes This means virtual charter schools are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and that the funding is based on 'successful completions' rather than on seat time (attendance and enrollment). Virtual charter schools may report FTE for all FEFP funding programs (Basic, ESE, Career Education and ESOL). Like other virtual programs and schools, virtual charter schools may not receive any funding for the purpose of fulfilling class size requirements.

79. *How are virtual charter schools held accountable for student learning?*

Virtual charter schools will receive school grades based on the performance of their full-time students like other public schools in the district and state; are funded based on successful completions; are school choice options for parents; and must meet performance criteria outlined in their charters with school districts.

80. *Can a brick and mortar charter school provide blended-learning?*

Yes. A charter school may implement blended learning courses which combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual instruction. Students in blended learning courses must be full-time students of the charter school and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting at the charter school.

81. *What are the requirements for instructional personnel who provide virtual instruction for blended courses?*

Instructional personnel may be employees of the charter school or may be under contract to provide instructional services to charter school students. At a minimum, the instructional personnel must hold a state certificate as required in section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, or a

school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57, Florida Statutes, for the subject area of the blended learning course. Charter school employees must undergo background screening as provided in section 1012.32, Florida Statutes.

82. *What are the funding and performance accountability requirements for blended learning courses?*

These are the same as those for traditional courses in traditional public schools. The funding is based on seat time (attendance and enrollment), and the student's charter school will receive a school grade based on the performance of students enrolled in the charter school.

Student Eligibility and Participation ([BACK TO TOP](#))

83. *What are the student eligibility requirements to enroll in district virtual instruction programs, district virtual course offerings and virtual charter schools?*

Students who enroll in one of the above options must meet at least one of the following criteria specified in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes:

- The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a public school in this state and was enrolled and reported by a public school district for funding during the preceding October and February for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) surveys.
- The student is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was transferred within the last 12 months to this state from another state or from a foreign country pursuant to the parent's permanent change of station orders.
- The student was enrolled during the prior school year in a school district virtual instruction program under this section or a K-8 virtual school program under section 1002.415, Florida Statutes
- The student has a sibling who is currently enrolled in the school district virtual instruction program and that sibling was enrolled in such program at the end of the prior school year
- The student is eligible to enter kindergarten or first grade.
- The student is eligible to enter grades 2 through 5 and is enrolled full-time in a school district virtual instruction program, virtual charter school, or the Florida Virtual School (newly authorized by 2012 Legislature).

84. *Based on the new eligibility criterion for students in grades 2-5, in which virtual education options may they enroll without meeting one of the other eligibility criteria?*

Students in grades 2-5 may enroll in one of the full-time virtual education options. These include full-time options offered by FLVS, school districts and virtual charter schools. Grades 2-5 students who wish to enroll in part-time options (individual online courses) must still meet one of the other eligibility criteria.

85. *Do students enrolled in FLVS have to meet one of the student eligibility criteria delineated in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes?*

Grades K-12 students enrolled in FLVS FT and grades K-1 and grades 6-12 students enrolled in FLVS PT do not have to meet one of the criteria. Grades 2-5 students enrolled in FLVS PT schools must meet one of the student eligibility criteria as specified in section 1002.455(2), Florida Statutes

86. *Will students enrolled in online or blended courses offered by their district brick and mortar school be required to meet one of the eligibility criteria specified in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes to enroll in the course?*

No. These students will not be required to meet one of these eligibility criteria. However, the student must be a full-time student at the school.

87. *In which currently available K-12 virtual education options are home education and private school students eligible to enroll without meeting one of the eligibility criteria in law?*

Home education and private school students are eligible to enroll in:

- FLVS FT public schools (grades K-12)
- FLVS PT schools (grades K-1 and 6-12)
- District full-time virtual programs (grades K-5)
- District franchises of FLVS (grades K-1 and 6-12)
- Virtual charter schools (Grades K-5)

Home education students enrolling in full-time public virtual schools offered by FLVS, school districts and virtual charter schools become public school students upon enrollment.

88. *For virtual options requiring prior-year public school attendance, how will this eligibility be verified?*

Student eligibility is determined by either reviewing a district's previous year student history or, for those students who have transferred from another district, using the Student Locator function available from the DOE. Specific instructions for using the Student Locator function are available by either contacting a district's management information system staff or the Department's Office of Education Information and Accountability Services (ASKEIAS@fldoe.org).

89. *Do students who were enrolled in a lab school or charter school the previous year meet the prior-year public school eligibility requirements?*

Yes. Lab schools and charter schools are Florida public schools, and their students would meet the prior-year public school requirement as long as they were reported for funding in Surveys 2 and 3.

90. *Do home education or private school students who enroll part-time in a public school meet the prior-year public school requirement?*

No. Students in grades K-12 attend school full-time and have to meet compulsory attendance requirements. To meet compulsory attendance requirements students are classified in one of three categories—as public, private or home education students. Students who were

registered as home education students in their school districts the previous year are classified as home education students, even if they return to the school district to take a class. Likewise, students who attended a private school the previous year are classified as private school students.

91. *Do students attending a private school the previous year with a McKay scholarship meet the prior-year public school enrollment criterion for virtual instruction programs or virtual charters?*

No. Students who use McKay scholarships to attend private schools do not meet the prior-year criterion.

92. *How will eligibility of siblings be verified?*

Siblings are eligible if their brother or sister is currently enrolled in the school district VIP and was also enrolled at the end of the previous year. Districts may use paperwork normally gathered at registration/enrollment, such as a birth certificate or adoption papers, to determine sibling eligibility.

93. *What verification will be requested for students who are dependent children of a member of the United States Armed Forces?*

A review of transfer orders will satisfy the verification requirement for dependent children of members of the United States Armed Forces.

94. *May students enrolled in a full-time virtual program or school participate in extracurricular activities in the school district?*

Yes. Section 1002.20(18)(a), Florida Statutes, states students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Section 1002.20(18)(d), Florida Statutes, states that Florida Virtual School full-time students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the district public school to which they would be assigned or could choose to attend according to district school board policies. Section 1006.15(3), Florida Statutes, specifies the conditions for full-time students at FLVS to participate in interscholastic or interscholastic extracurricular activities in their districts of residence. In addition, section 1006.15(5)(b), Florida Statutes, state “organizations that regulate or govern extracurricular activities of public schools shall not discriminate against any eligible student based on an educational choice of public, private, or home education.”

Assessment and Accountability ([BACK TO TOP](#))

95. *Are students enrolled in virtual programs and courses required to take state assessments?*

All public school students are required to take state assessments, including virtual public school students.

96. *How will full-time district virtual students take state assessments when their virtual school does not have a physical location and they primarily access their virtual instruction from home?*

These district students are required by law to take state assessments and it is the responsibility of their school district to provide a location for them to take state assessments. The district may choose to have them report to the school in their attendance zone, to another school in the district or to another location established by the district.

97. *How will district public school students who take an online course requiring an End-of-Course (EOC) assessment from FLVS be tested?*

These district students will be tested at their district school of enrollment.

98. *Are students enrolled in FLVS FT required to take state assessments and if so, where will they take them?*

Yes. Although these students are not enrolled in district public schools, they are public school students and are required to take all state assessments. Currently only school districts administer statewide assessments, and the law specifies that these students are to take these tests in their districts of residence at the school to which they would be assigned according to district school board attendance areas.

99. *Will school districts be reimbursed for the costs of scheduling, coordinating, and administering state assessments for FLVS FT students and for providing accommodations when necessary?*

There is no additional funding to cover these costs. However, FLVS has offered to provide assistance to districts related to administering state assessments for FLVS FT students. Interested districts should contact the following FLVS testing offices:

For testing of FLVS Full Time students: FLVSFullTimeTesting@flvs.net

For all other testing (Part Time): Testing@flvs.net

100. *How will students be assessed who enroll full-time in another district's virtual instruction program (VIP)?*

Section 1002.45(6)(b), Florida Statutes, requires students to take state assessments in their districts of residence.

101. *Which district receives the accountability for students enrolling in virtual programs and courses offered by another school district or FLVS?*

If students are enrolled in a full-time virtual program in another school district or through FLVS, that full-time school is the students' school of enrollment and that school receives the accountability. For students taking online courses on a part-time basis from another school district or from FLVS, the accountability is applied to their schools of enrollment in their district of residence.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) ([BACK TO TOP](#))

102. *Can exceptional student education (ESE) students participate in the school district virtual instruction program (VIP) or the Florida Virtual School's full-time school (FLVS FT)?*

Yes. As described in section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, *K-12 student and parent rights*, "parents of public school student may seek whatever public school choice options that are applicable and available to students in their districts." The options listed include virtual instruction programs and the Florida Virtual School.

Any student who meets the requirements in section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, *Student eligibility for K-12 virtual instruction*, is eligible to participate in the school district VIP. Since the school district VIP is a public K-12 school (section 1000.04(1), Florida Statutes), the district cannot restrict participation to only those students who do not have specialized educational plans (i.e., individual educational plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan for students with disabilities; or an educational plan (EP) for gifted students).

Additionally, any student who meets the requirements of section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is eligible to participate in the FLVS fulltime program, including students who receive exceptional student education services.

103. *What changes were made during the 2012 legislative session that specifically impacted the provision of services to exceptional education students?*

During the 2012 legislative session, section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, *Exceptional Student Instruction*, was amended to require full-time virtual instruction programs authorized by section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, or 1002.45 Florida Statutes, to fulfill "the obligation of a school district for public school exceptional students who are enrolled in full-time virtual programs."

For the FLVS FT program, this has significant implications for the implementation of responsibilities related to the identification, location, and evaluation of students with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services, including the development and implementation of individual educational plans (IEPs). Additionally this conveys responsibilities related to the evaluation of students who are gifted and the development and implementation of educational plans (EPs) for students who are gifted.

For school districts, since the VIP is a school district program, even when a contractor operates the program, these obligations remain with the district. Ultimately, the district is responsible for the development and implementation of IEPs and EPs and responsibilities related to child find and identification of ESE students. However, the contractual agreement between the school district and the virtual provider may establish specific requirements with regard to the role and responsibilities of the virtual provider for some or all of these activities.

104. *Who makes the determination that full-time virtual instruction is appropriate for a student with a disability who has an IEP?*

For the FLVS FT program, upon receipt of information indicating that a student who is enrolling is a student with an IEP, the FLVS full-time program must convene a meeting of the FLVS IEP team. The team must be composed of individuals in accordance with the requirements of Rule 6A-6.03028 (3)(c), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), *Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities*. The text of the rule may be found at <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-6.03028>.

There is specific content in rule that must be included in the written notice inviting the parents to the IEP team meeting. The IEP team must review, and revise, as needed, the student's IEP in order to meet the student's needs in the virtual environment. FLVS will be responsible for implementing the student's IEP as written. If during the process of the review of the IEP, FLVS has concerns about being able to meet the needs of the student; FLVS is advised to convene a "hybrid" IEP team meeting that includes representatives from the school district in which the parent and student reside. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and corresponding state regulations, make provisions for parent participation in meetings via phone and video conferencing.

For school district VIP programs, the IEP team for the VIP would have the responsibility for reviewing and revising the IEP to meet the student's needs in the virtual environment.

Since FLVS and district virtual schools are choice options and consequently are not required to alter their programs fundamentally in order to meet the needs of every student with a disability, if it is determined that the virtual school is unable to meet the needs of the student, the school district in which the student and parent reside must make a free appropriate public education available (FAPE) to the student.

105. *Who has the responsibility to evaluate FLVS FT students if it is suspected that a student may be a student with a disability?*

Given the statutory revisions during the 2012 legislative session, the FLVS FT school has the responsibility to implement procedures and processes to identify and evaluate students if the FLVS FT school has reason to suspect that an enrolled student may be a student with a disability in need of special education and related services. Consistent with the evaluation process for any student suspected of having a disability, FLVS must review all existing data for the student which would include data regarding the student's response to instruction and interventions provided by FLVS and information from any assessments administered by FLVS. If it is determined that additional formal assessment data are needed to determine the student's eligibility as a student with a disability, obtaining such an assessment(s) is the responsibility of the FLVS FT program.

106. *What is the school district VIP responsibility to students with disabilities?*

The school district's VIP is primarily a full-time program. However, as with any other public school, the school day for a student with a disability may include more than the basic courses

provided to all students. Some accommodations and supplemental services can be provided in conjunction with the school district's VIP. For some exceptional students, the IEP or EP team may determine the need for additional services beyond those provided in the district VIP. Depending on the nature and extent of those additional services, these exceptional students may be able to participate in the school district's VIP and also receive ESE services (e.g., speech therapy) from the district or from the virtual provider, if so stipulated in the contract.

107. *For which FEFP funding programs may districts and FLVS report FTE for their virtual ESE students and what other funding is available for virtual ESE students?*

Districts and FLVS may report FTE for full-time virtual ESE students in all FEFP programs (Basic, ESE, Career Education and ESOL). This includes FEFP Programs 111-113 (Basic with ESE services), 254 and 255 (ESE). Funding for part-time virtual ESE students is limited to Basic Education and Career Education. Services for students with disabilities may also be funded through Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) dollars and other funding sources.

108. *How are districts to handle alternate assessment for students in the school district VIP who are eligible students with disabilities?*

If a student who is receiving instruction in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards access points and participating in the Florida Alternate Assessment (a decision made by the IEP team) is enrolled in the school district VIP, then the district's assessment director or alternate assessment coordinator can provide information on the assessment window and assessment procedures. Note: the Florida Alternate Assessment must be administered individually by a certified teacher who has received training in the administration of the assessment.

109. *Would the district be obligated to provide transportation to and from the student's home for the purpose of receiving ESE services at the school site?*

No. Since the student is participating in the school district VIP as a choice option, there would not be an obligation to provide transportation.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) ([BACK TO TOP](#))

110. *Can students indentified as ELL (English Language Learner) enroll in virtual programs or courses?*

Yes. Students identified as ELL who meets the requirements in Section 1002.455, Florida Statutes, are eligible to enroll. Students must be identified as ELL through district qualifying criteria and documentation maintained in the Student ELL plan.

111. *What are the requirements for online teachers related to teaching students identified as ELL?*

Online teachers must meet the same requirements for instructing students identified as ELL. Teachers responsible for the Language Arts and/or intensive reading instruction for ELLs must complete the ESOL K-12 certification or ESOL endorsement within the appropriate timelines. Math, Science, Social Studies and Computer literacy teachers must complete 60 hours of ESOL training. All other personnel responsible for ELL instruction require 18 hours of ESOL training. ESOL strategies must be documented in teacher lesson plans to ensure comprehensible instruction.

FUNDING AND REPORTING ([Back to Top](#))

112. *How are students in district virtual instruction programs (VIP), district franchises of FLVS, virtual charters and the FLVS FT funded?*

These virtual education options are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Funding is based on successful completions rather than enrollment and attendance (seat time).

113. *What is considered “successful completions” for full-time district virtual instruction programs and virtual charter schools?*

A “successful completion” for students in grades K-12 is related to passing virtual courses or the prescribed level of content that counts toward promotion. This means that students in grades K-5 are no longer required to complete a basic education program successfully and be promoted to a higher grade to receive any funding. A successful completion for part-time students is contingent upon passing and/or earning credits for virtual courses.

114. *How are “successful completions” defined for FLVS Full-time?*

Successful completions are defined as successful course or credit completions or the prescribed level of content that counts toward promotion to the next grade.

115. *For which FEFP funding programs may districts report FTE for their virtual students?*

Districts may report FTE for full-time virtual students in all FEFP programs (Basic, ESE, Career Education and ESOL). This includes FEFP Programs 101-103 (Basic), 111-113 (Basic with ESE services), 254 and 255 (ESE), 130 (ESOL) and 300 (Career Education). Funding for part-time virtual students is limited to Basic and Career Education (FEFP Programs 101-103, 111-113 and 300).

116. *Do school districts, virtual charter schools and FLVS FT have to wait a year for funding as suggested by the definition of a Full-time Equivalent (FTE) student based on successful completions?*

No. During the school year, the FTE is estimated thereby allowing funds to flow throughout the year. The FTE is trued-up or adjusted at the end of the school year, following the reporting of performance for their students at the end of the year.

117. *In what FTE Surveys are virtual students reported for funding?*

Students in district virtual instruction programs and virtual courses, virtual charter schools, district franchises of FLVS and FLVS FT are reported for funding in Surveys 2, 3, and 4. In Surveys 2 and 3, students are reported with 0 FTE; however, the FTE is estimated based on this reporting. Virtual students and courses are reported in Survey 4, with the appropriate FTE assigned to successful completions. Students in FLVS PT are reported in the survey (1, 2, 3, or 4) during which the student successfully completed the course. Virtual students who do not successfully complete virtual courses or prescribed level of content do not earn FTE funding for the virtual program or course(s).

118. *If a virtual education student successfully completes more than six courses or the prescribed level of content that counts toward promotion, are the excess courses and content reported with 0 FTE in Survey 4?*

Yes. As for students who take additional classes in brick and mortar schools, virtual students cannot earn more than 1.0 FTE for the school year with the exception of grades 6-12 students taking courses from FLVS PT.

119. *If a student in grades K-5 is enrolled in a school district VIP the first semester for the semester and enrolls in a district brick and mortar school the second semester, can the district receive the full 1.0 FTE?*

Yes. The district can receive FTE for the successful completions of courses or the prescribed level of content that counts toward promotion the first semester and .5 FTE seat time funding for the second semester. The student may not earn more than 1.0 FTE for the school year.

120. *May a student complete a virtual course prior to the end of the school year and still generate funding for that course?*

Yes. The student would generate funding for the virtual course since the funding is based on successful completions rather than seat time.

121. *If a student in a district's VIP moves to another district before the end of the school year and before completing the virtual courses or program, will the first district receive any funding for that student?*

If the two school districts enter into an agreement to allow the student to remain enrolled in the first district's VIP, then that district will receive funding if the student successfully completes the prescribed level of content or courses.

122. *Do districts also need to report district virtual students in surveys other than 2, 3, and 4?*

Students in district virtual programs and schools are district students, and their information should be reported in all survey periods as for other district students.

123. *If district VIP students' progress in reading is monitored by assessments other than the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR), how will this be reported to the DOE database?*

These students will be reported using the Student Assessment reporting format in Surveys 2, 3, and 5. The Assessment Code Table for eligible assessments is located in Appendix I of the Database Manual.

http://www.fldoe.org/eias/dataweb/student_1011.asp#APPENDICES

124. *The course code for M/J Intensive Reading is the same for grades 6, 7 and 8. If a middle school student is required to take Intensive Reading all three years based on FCAT 2.0 results, will that student be able to earn funding for the course every year?*

Yes. The student may generate funding as long as the student passes the course.

125. *What reporting formats must districts submit to provide information on teachers who are hired by contracted virtual providers rather than the school district?*

Districts need to submit the Teacher Course reporting format in the Student Information System for all courses taught by these teachers. In addition, if virtual students participate in the FAIR reading assessment, the district must report selected elements in the Staff Demographic reporting format in the Staff Information System for the responsible reading instructor in Survey 8.

126. *If the district contracts with an approved provider to operate its virtual instruction program, will the school district or the provider receive the FEFP funding?*

The FEFP funding will flow to the school district. The school district and provider will determine in their contract how much of the funding per student the provider will receive.

127. *How much funding will a student who successfully completes in a full-year program or six online courses generate?*

Although funding for virtual education programs is through the FEFP, the Virtual Education Contribution (one component of the FEFP) provides virtual programs and schools a specified amount of funding if their calculated funding is less than that amount. This amount is \$5,200 for the 2012-13 school year.

128. *How is funding determined for a student taking a full schedule of courses in his or her district school and is also taking a course from another district?*

Section 1003.498, Florida Statutes, specifies that if a student takes a virtual course from another district, the district of instruction is to report the completion of the course for funding and does not allow the student's home district to report funding for that course. Since the student can only earn 1.0 FTE, the home district would report less than that amount for courses taken in the district.

129. *If districts contract with approved providers for full-time virtual instruction services, will districts be able to use funding earned above the contract price to meet other costs associated with offering this program to district students?*

Section 1002.45, Florida Statutes, requires funding over the contract price to be spent on the district's local instructional improvement system or other technological tools to access electronic and digital materials.

130. *Legislation passed in 2011 requires school districts to submit an itemized list of technological tools purchased with funding received above the contract amount with VIP providers to the DOE. This language is not included in the text of section 1002.45, Florida Statutes. Is this still a requirement?*

This requirement is included in the notes at the end of section 1002.45, Florida Statute.

131. *Will district-operated virtual instruction programs (district provides instruction) use school number 7001?*

No. School 7001 is reserved for provider-operated virtual instruction programs (VIP). District-operated VIP will use school number 7023. Please contact the Education Information and Accountability office in the DOE if your district is operating a VIP to activate this number. <http://doeweb-prd.doe.state.fl.us/EDS/MasterSchoolID/index.cfm>

132. *Will blended learning courses offered to students in district brick and mortar schools be based on seat-time funding like those offered in brick and mortar charter schools?*

The funding, performance and accountability requirements for blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses. Students in blended learning courses are now required to be full-time students of the school and receive instruction in a classroom setting at the school.

133. *How are students reported who take an online course from a district virtual school (school numbers 7001, 7023, 7004 or 7006) or FLVS (District 71) from a computer lab or classroom at their school as part of their school-day curriculum?*

The virtual school will report the student completions. However, a new data element for the 2012-13 school year has been created to indicate if a student is taking an online course from a virtual school using district school facilities during the school day. This data element has been added to the Student Course Schedule Record Format. It is imperative that the district school provide the necessary information to the virtual school at the point of enrollment in a virtual course to ensure accurate reporting.

134. *Can FLVS still report additional FTE for courses taken outside of the school day?*

FLVS will still receive FTE for courses beyond the school day and year for their FLVS PT (supplemental) students in grades 6-12. They cannot report more than 1.0 FTE for their full-time students in grades K-12 and the part-time students in grades K-5.

135. *Which district reports the FTE for a student enrolled in another district's virtual instruction program, the district of residence or the district providing the virtual instruction?*

The district providing the virtual instruction is to report the FTE

136. *How and when will the funding adjustment related to passing an EOC be made?*

Beginning in the fourth year of administering the end-of-course assessment, the FTE will be credit-based and each course will be equal to 1/6th FTE. The FTE for Algebra I will be credit based in 2013-14; geometry or an equivalent course in 2014-15, Biology I or an equivalent course in 2014-15; and Civics Education in 2017-18. A value of 1/6th FTE may be reported for each course in which the student passes the EOC, subject to the 1.0 FTE cap per student per school year. FTE is not reported for a student who does not pass the EOC. The FTE will be estimated throughout the school year, allowing funds to flow during the year. The FTE is trued-up or adjusted at the end of the school year, following the reporting of performance of students at the end of the year.

137. *Can FLVS and districts report FTE for ESOL?*

FLVS and school districts may report funding in FEFP program 130 (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for their full-time virtual students. Part-time students are still limited to generating funding in basic education and career education programs.

Role of the Department of Education (DOE) ([BACK TO TOP](#))

138. *What role does the DOE play related to Florida's public virtual programs and schools?*

- The DOE approves the private providers school districts may use to provide full-time and part-time virtual instruction programs for their students. Virtual charter schools must contract with these same providers.
- The Department provides information about all of Florida's public virtual education programs/schools to parents, students, citizens, researchers, and others interested parties.
- The Department provides technical assistance to school districts, virtual schools, and providers related to virtual program, reporting and funding requirements.
- The Department reports information related to virtual programs, schools, and students and analyzes proposed legislation policies related to virtual education.
- The Department will also collect copies of district contracts with providers every October to analyze costs for specific services.
- The Department calculates school grades for full-time virtual programs and will produce an annual report for part-time virtual providers related to specified evaluation metrics.
- This year, the Department is also to:
 - revise the current SBE rule, approval process and application to incorporate legislative changes,

- provide additional guidance to districts and FLVS for the enrollment, reporting and funding for students who cross district lines to take virtual courses or enroll in virtual programs,
- provide guidance to FLVS and districts related to new part-time virtual options for elementary students.

139. *Do district virtual instruction programs (VIPs) have to be approved by the Florida DOE?*

No. These are district programs provided to district students. The district is responsible for ensuring students choosing this program have the resources they need to be successful just as they do for students in other district schools and programs.

140. *Can a district contract with virtual curriculum providers that are not on the DOE's approved provider list?*

If a district operates its own VIP, it can contract with other providers for curriculum, digital content and other online resources. In addition, districts may contract with other providers for digital content, curriculum and other online resources for students who are not participating in their district VIP. Section 1002.45(9), Florida Statutes, specifically states the latter.