

Florida Virtual School



Students who wish to accelerate their learning or who wish to make up credits are encouraged to take courses from Florida Virtual High School.

Florida Virtual High School is an internet-based high school funded by the Florida legislature. The courses offered are based on the Sunshine State Standards and provide Florida's students with an alternative way to earn credits for high school graduation. A major characteristic of this system is the expectation that students assume full responsibility for learning by locating, evaluating, and using a wide range of resources available in this information age. These courses are most suited to students who are self-motivated, committed, and fully matured independent learners. All courses taken must follow the Charlotte County High School Guidelines and be approved by the principal and guidance counselor.

Program Definition

Distance learning opportunities supplied through the Florida Virtual School as affiliated with Charlotte County Public Schools are not designed to replace the standard high school experience. These on-line courses are supplements to the regular program and are offered on a limited basis.

Students whose general academic and behavioral profiles indicate that they could be successful are encouraged to attempt distance-learning opportunities.

For more specific information regarding the rules and regulations governing Florida Virtual School, visit their web site at www.flvs.net.

Student Expectations

There are very specific student expectations that should be considered before applying for a distance-learning course. Students must be able to demonstrate the following:


- organizational skills in a self-paced environment

- ability to apply critical thinking and problem-solving strategies
- ability to complete assignments satisfactorily
- willingness and capability to participate actively in on-line chat-room discussions
- ability to work independently with continuous face-to-face monitoring;
- word processing skills; and
- basic internet skills (search, research, and etiquette)

In addition, students

- direct their own learning environment and methods to fulfill course requirements to achieve individual academic success;
- must have a strong commitment to organize and plan their learning;
- take responsibility for meeting at a designated site to return instructional materials and to take final exams; and
- provide transportation and accept all liability for any transportation needed in association with any course.

Requirements for Registration

- The student must be recommended by his/her high school counselor and principal or designee. School representatives reserve the option to deny a request based on academic or behavioral records which indicate that the student would not be best served by this program.
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- Students can register on-line at www.flvs.net. This registration will not be confirmed until Florida Virtual School personnel have evidence that permission has been secured from the student's home school to participate in the program. Admissions are limited, and students may be placed on a "wait" list for the next available placement. After September, registration is an ongoing process with students entering and leaving the system as they complete coursework.
 - Once registered, students will work with their on-line instructor to establish an action plan detailing due dates for coursework and exam time.
 - Students and parents must also agree to a code of conduct agreement outlining proper use of internet resources.

Course Materials

Registered students will receive a set of course materials. Most of these materials will be supplied free of charge; however, in some instances purchase is necessary. Purchased items may include software that the student will keep after the conclusion of the course. Fees and purchases are permissible in this situation since the courses are being offered outside the regular school environment on an optional basis.

The student is responsible for returning all non-purchased instructional materials to Florida Virtual School at the conclusion of each course. Failure to return materials could result in certain negative consequences consistent with policies and procedures of Florida Virtual High School such as a refusal to release grades.

Materials Needed for Students Taking Distance Learning Courses at High School

For distance learning courses offered at the high school site, students will be supplied with all instructional materials and equipment free of charge.

Dropping a Course

When a student wishes to drop a Florida Virtual School course, specific procedures must be followed. Students will be made aware of the current procedures at the time of enrollment.

Grades and Credit

- All distance learning courses that meet district approval will carry the same weight and credit as courses delivered in a traditional classroom.
- All grades will be determined by the Florida Virtual School instructor. Final grades will be forwarded to the student's high school for entry into the student's academic record.
- All distance learning grades will be calculated into the student's GPA in the same manner as coursework taken at the student's high school.
- Progress reports will be delivered on-line to students at predetermined intervals in the course. Schools may also request student progress reports for administrators and/or guidance counselors.

Curriculum Offerings

The offerings will correspond to the state course code system and be correlated to the Sunshine State Standards. A rigorous review process validates the courses for use not only in Charlotte County, but also throughout Florida. For these reasons, no distinction will be made between courses offered on-line and those offered in a standard setting.

Transportation

Students and/or parents/legal guardians will provide transportation and accept all liability for transportation for students traveling to take final exams, deliver coursework, and return instructional materials.