

SREB

*Educational Technology
Cooperative*

Report on State Virtual Schools

June 2005

Southern
Regional
Education
Board

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State-Sponsored Virtual Schools

Early trends indicate that state virtual schools are on the rise.

There are several indicators that show state virtual schools are becoming a viable way of providing quality courses to students.

- Less than 10 years ago, no state used the Web to provide courses to middle or high school students.
- By the late 1990s, only Florida had created and provided Web-based courses for high school students.
- Beginning in 2000, other SREB states including West Virginia, Kentucky and Louisiana implemented state virtual schools.
- SREB states lead the nation in the number of state virtual schools that have been implemented.
- Nearly all SREB states will have a state-sponsored virtual school within the next several years.

Why has this happened?

There is a growing understanding that providing Web-based courses for many middle and high school students **works**. Online courses have shown to be important to reach students who need:

- academic courses their school cannot provide;
- to re-take courses for graduation;
- alternatives to traditional education;
- options to courses offered in their school; and
- access to courses because of physical disabilities.

What is SREB's role?

Using the Web to provide academic courses is still relatively new, and states are still learning how to provide and manage state virtual schools. They vary in how they are organized, funded and implemented. The SREB Educational Technology Cooperative has worked closely with states over more than six years and has provided up-to-date information and leadership to help states share their experience and resources. The Cooperative continues to support states as they address the policy, instructional and management issues connected with virtual schools. These include:

- getting the funding policies right to ensure adequate and reliable financial support;
- developing and implementing policies and procedures to ensure quality courses and instruction.

In fall 2004 the Educational Technology Cooperative collected, for the first time, detailed information about the status of state virtual schools in SREB states. This report was distributed in November 2004. In March 2005 the Cooperative convened SREB states to address key virtual learning policy, instructional and management issues and topics. This *Report on State Virtual Schools* is an updated version of the earlier report and reflects the growing use of the Web by states.

The Cooperative provides up-to-date information on state virtual schools on the SREB Web site at <http://www.sreb.org/programs/EdTech/onlinelearning/onlinelearnindex.asp>

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">Alabama Online High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://aohs.state.al.us</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	Legislative initiative, 2000.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	<p>Alabama Online High School has been reorganized into the College of Continuing Studies to better serve the students.</p> <p>The Alabama Legislature has just appropriated \$10.3 million to fund a statewide distance learning initiative. This initiative will include building upon the successes of the Alabama Online High School, connecting all of the state's videoconferencing equipment to the state network and selecting 12 sites in which to pilot a blended distance learning model, which will include both online and videoconferencing elements. The goal is to create high-quality courses, including those required for the advanced diploma, as well as Advanced Placement courses, electives (core academic and non-core academic) and remediation courses that will be available to every high school student in Alabama.</p> <p>The information described in this report is about the Alabama Online High School.</p>
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	University of Alabama.
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>State legislative allocation for 2005-06.</p> <p>Grants from Alabama State Department of Education.</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	<p>State legislature</p> <p>School districts</p> <p>Parents</p>

Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Core academic <u> 12 </u> Foreign language <u> 1 </u> Technical/career education <u> 1 </u> Non-core electives <u> 5 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the SVS during 2004-05 school year?</i>	Total enrollment in 2004-05: 300 student enrolled in courses for credit; 1800 students enrolled in remediation modules for exit exam
Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	Courses are developed within the state by certificated, highly qualified teachers in the subject.
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	There is a memorandum of agreement between the University of Alabama and the State Department of Education that specifically addresses this issue. Under the terms of the agreement, all parties involved have a royalty-free, non-exclusive right to reproduce, modify, publish, or otherwise use the work. Appropriate authorship credit remains with the developer.
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Part-time <u> 20 </u>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	Teacher quality is addressed by : requiring teachers be certified in Alabama; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses by having personnel assigned to check on progress of course on a weekly basis . Teacher/student ratio is 15:1.
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	Alabama Online Virtual School.
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Management — full-time <u> 1 </u> Administrative staff — full-time <u> 1 </u>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria are developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.

<p>Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i></p>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Alabama State Department of Education.</p>
<p>Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>Course reviews and completion rates are used to measure success.</p>
<p>Contact information</p>	<p>Key contact person: Cheryl Sundberg Title: Program Manager E-mail address: csundberg@ccs.ua.edu Telephone: 205-348-2647</p> <p>Other contact person: Rita Wright Title: Technology Initiative Distance Learning, Alabama Department of Education E-mail address: rwright01@alsde.edu Telephone: 334-242-9594</p>

	<p>State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p>June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p>Arkansas Virtual High School</p> <p>http://avhs.k12.ar.us</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	Goals 2000 grant, 1999.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	Growth has continued from inception to the present. To date 1,200 students are enrolled in classes from over 60 different schools in the state.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Arkansas State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	Arkansas State Legislative allocation
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	Arkansas State Legislature Money is allocated by the department of technology in the department of Education. The Legislature funds the department of technology each year.
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Advanced Placement <u> 3 </u> Core academic <u> 23 </u> Foreign language <u> 4 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	What is the total number of students enrolled in 2004-2005: <u> 1,200 </u> Spring semester <u> 1,200 </u> Summer semester <u> 60 </u> Fall semester <u> 1,200 </u> High school students <u> all </u> Students are permitted (only with their school's permission) to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.
Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	Courses are developed by Arkansas certified teachers.

Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	The Arkansas Department of Education owns the courses.
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Full-time <u> 3 </u> Part-time <u> 25 </u>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	Teacher quality is addressed by: requiring teachers be certified in Arkansas; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. WebCT course platform is used for monitoring. Teacher/student ratio is 1:20.
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	State virtual school
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Management — full-time <u> 1 </u> Other — full-time <u> 2 </u>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the Arkansas State Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy.
Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Success is measured by the number of students who successfully complete the semester.
Contact information	Key contact person: Sandy O'Reilly Title: Director E-mail address: sandy_o@cox.net Telephone: 479-229-4349

State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative June 2005	
Name of State Virtual School	Delaware Delaware does not have a state virtual school. Courses are offered to high school students through the AP Incentive Program Grant, which is administered by the Delaware Department of Education. Some school districts in Delaware offer online courses for their students.
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	AP Incentive Program Grant
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	Districts have continued to use courses from APEX Learning (a company that provides online AP courses) and Exam Review.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Delaware State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	School districts Federal funds
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School districts Federal funds
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Advanced Placement <u> 54 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	Total number of students, 2004-05: <u> 54 </u> Spring semester <u> 27 </u> Fall semester <u> 27 </u> High school students <u> 54 </u> 1,290 APEX Exam Review Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.

Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	APEX Learning provides all the courses.
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	This issue is addressed in the contract with APEX Learning
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	APEX Learning provides teachers.
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Delaware or any other state; requiring teachers to be certified from any state, who are trained in teaching AP courses and have at least five years of experience in teaching the course; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. <p>APEX sends weekly, monthly and semester reports to Mercedes Ferrari, the Department of Education coordinator.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio is 1:25 on average.</p>
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	Teachers are employed by Apex Learning.
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Each school has a mentor (counselor) for online learning students.
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Online courses are systematically monitored.
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.</p> <p>An evaluator from Temple University also evaluates the APEX program on an annual basis.</p>

Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Advanced Placement test results are monitored.
Contact information	Key contact person : Mercedes Ferrari Title : Education Associate E-mail address : mferrari@doe.k12.de.us Telephone number: 302-739-2767

State Virtual School Survey
SREB Educational Technology Cooperative

June 2005

Florida Virtual School (FLVS)
Courses for Middle School — High School
<http://www.flvs.net>

Initial implementation
What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?

Legislative initiative, July 1, 1997.

Current status
Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.

Florida Virtual School launched a newly developed Virtual School Administrator database in May 2005. This will replace the current student information system and provide an integrated data system with the learning management system to house all student information, records, reports and registration, etc. Florida Virtual School is in the process of hiring 60 new instructors to accommodate growth. There are no legislative or funding changes at this time. A Data Warehouse solution for all systems will provide one database for data-mining and decision-making capability.

Following are developments in the first six months of 2005:

65 middle and high school courses were refreshed (included adding oral assessments, out-of-the-seat activities, discussions, targeted lesson rewrites and test banks).

Twelve new courses were added.

Math 1 Math 2 Science 1	Science 2 Liberal Arts Math Language Arts 1	Language Arts Web Design 2 Reading 1	World Cultures Algebra 1B AP Computer Science AB
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Seven courses were redeveloped.

Latin 2 Personal Fitness	Global Studies English 3	Art 2D SAT	Chemistry
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Eight courses were super-refreshed (including new template, updated lessons, added interactivities and more).

AP Calculus AP US History	AP Government Algebra 1	Marine Science Earth Space Science	World History English 1
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Additionally, these improvements have been made recently:

Test banks were added to over 90% of courses.

5 new AP reviews were added.

	<p>10 old courses were updated and launched on time.</p> <p>More than 200 multimedia activities were added into courses.</p> <p>36 courses were reviewed; 15 courses were proofread.</p>
<p>Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i></p>	<p>Board of Trustees, appointed by the governor</p>
<p>Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i></p>	<p>State legislative allocation is the primary source of FTE funding, which is based on number of credits awarded.</p> <p>Florida Virtual School does provide instruction to non-Florida students on a tuition model.</p> <p>Other sources of funding come from course licensing and various trainings related to online school operations and course development.</p>
<p>Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i></p>	<p>Florida State Legislature</p> <p>There is no tuition for Florida students as funding is provided through the Florida Educational Finance Program. Tuition is charged to non-Florida students.</p>
<p>Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i></p>	<p>Advanced Placement <u> 11 </u></p> <p>Core academic <u> 38 </u> (These courses are defined so as to meet graduation requirements in the areas of math, science, social studies, English, health and PE; includes honors course options.)</p> <p>Foreign language <u> 5 </u></p> <p>Non-core electives <u> 39 </u> (These electives include courses in all high schools as well as middle schools.)</p> <p>GED — Florida Virtual School has created an online GED course that is delivered and taught by other districts in the state.</p> <p>Florida Virtual School has created online adult education courses that are delivered and taught by other districts in the state. Online test reviews for Advanced Placement Exams also are provided.</p>
<p>Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i></p>	<p>Total number of students, 2004-2005: 33,767 enrollments consisting of 21, 453 students.</p> <p>Public high school and middle school students <u> 73% </u></p> <p>Home school students <u> 20% </u></p> <p>Charter school students <u> 1% </u></p> <p>Private school students <u> 6% </u></p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>

<p>Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i></p>	<p>Florida Virtual School has an in-house development team that oversees course development. Most developers consist of Florida Virtual School teaching staff.</p> <p>Florida Virtual School has co-developed some courses with other organizations.</p>
<p>Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i></p>	<p>All Florida Virtual School courses have a copyright statement located on all pages within the course. All course development contracts include language indicating that all content developed for Florida Virtual School is the property of Florida Virtual School.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	<p>Full-time <u> 119 </u> Part-time <u> 98 </u> Non-Florida students are taught by certified teachers employed through a partnership with Stetson University.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i></p>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Florida; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. <p>All courses are designed using Florida Virtual School development criteria; thus, all teachers are teaching from the same established course content. Communication and assessment standards have been established with instructional administration responsible for the daily oversight of teacher communication, grading and student progress.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio shows an average of 120 students per teacher over a 12-month period.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i></p>	<p>Florida Virtual School</p>
<p>Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i></p>	<p>Management — full-time <u> 28 </u> Course design — full-time <u> 24 </u> part-time <u> 3 </u> Technical support — full-time <u> 11 </u> part-time <u> 4 </u> Other — full-time <u> 5 </u> (Global Services Department manages out-of-state students enrolled in Florida Virtual School.)</p>
<p>Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i></p>	<p>Criteria are developed and used to select online teachers.</p> <p>Special training is provided for online teachers.</p> <p>Online courses are systematically monitored.</p>

<p>Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i></p>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the state department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy. State guidelines or SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students are used.</p>
<p>Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>Florida Virtual School measures success through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> successful course-completion rate by students; customer (student, parent, school-based, district-based) satisfaction surveys performed by an external evaluator; teacher retention rates; and qualitative customer feedback.
<p>Contact information</p>	<p>Key contact person: Julie Young Title: President/CEO, Florida Virtual School E-mail address: jyoung@flvs.net Telephone: 407-317-3326</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">Georgia Virtual School Courses for High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.GAVirtualSchool.org</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Gubernatorial initiative</p> <p>Legislative initiative — SB 33 signed 5/4/05.</p>
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	<p>Rules and policies presently are being developed for the new program.</p> <p>First classes will be offered summer 2005.</p>
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	<p>Georgia State Department of Education</p>
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>State legislative allocation</p> <p>Users (tuition)</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	<p>Georgia Legislature</p> <p>Parents</p>
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	<p>Courses to be offered in summer 2005:</p> <p>Advanced Placement <u> 11 </u></p> <p>Core academic <u> 25 </u></p> <p>Foreign language <u> 4 </u></p> <p>Technical/career education <u> 3 </u></p> <p>Non-core electives <u> 4 </u></p>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	<p>Summer 2005 will be the first enrollment.</p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>

Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	Courses are developed by Georgia certified teachers. Courses used are purchased from third-party providers: Florida Virtual School and GA eLearning Consortium members. Courses are shared through partnerships with GA eLearning Consortium members.
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	Under development
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Under development
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	Teacher quality is addressed by: requiring teachers be certified in Georgia; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. Teacher/student ratio is 1:25.
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	Georgia Virtual School
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Management — full-time <u> 5 </u>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Under development
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the state Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy.
Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Under development
Contact information	Key contact person: Kristie Clements Title: Program Manager E-mail address: kristie.clements@doe.k12.ga.us Telephone: 404-657-0574

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">Kentucky Virtual High School (KVHS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.kvhs.org</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school??</i>	Gubernatorial initiative, January 2000.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	The Kentucky Virtual High School inducted the first virtual or online school chapter of the National Spanish Honor Society. Access to seven online Advanced Placement courses has been made available at no charge to classroom teachers, with training and mentoring. That program will expand to additional AP and core-content classes in fall 2005. KVHS has received two planning grants to establish an international studies strand, to include an introductory mandarin Chinese language course and a survey course on the expectations for knowledge workers in the global economy.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Kentucky State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>State legislative allocation provides funds to cover basic operations and personnel.</p> <p>School districts pay a fee for services.</p> <p>Grants fund special development projects, such as career and technical education and international studies.</p> <p>Some users (non-public school students, those retaking courses [credit recovery], and seventh- or eighth-grade classes) pay tuition.</p> <p>Federal funds provide support for Advanced Placement courses in the form of scholarships and professional development for instructors</p> <p>The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority has established a special needs-based scholarship program to expand access to online AP and dual credit classes. Kentucky Virtual High School provides administration of the program and delivers most of the services.</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	<p>School districts</p> <p>Federal funds</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Grants</p>

<p>Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i></p>	<p>Advanced Placement <u> 22 </u> Core academic <u> 15 </u> (Most core graduation requirements are included.) Foreign language <u> 4 years of 4 languages </u> Technical/career education <u> 3 </u> Non-core electives <u> 4 </u></p>
<p>Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i></p>	<p><u>2,220</u> (Enrollments in most classes were capped at last year's levels, pending additional staff support.)</p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>
<p>Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i></p>	<p>Courses are developed within the state by teams of teachers under contract to Kentucky Department of Education in consultation with the department of Education curriculum consultants. Contracts specify that all intellectual property rights are vested with the Commonwealth; the developers retain no rights. Postsecondary partners are included as part of the development team on an as-needed basis. All development teams work with a third-party under contract to provide guidance and assistance with 508 compliance. Development efforts are assigned a project manager.</p> <p>Courses are leased from Florida Virtual School Apex Learning, National Repository of Online Courses (NROC) and Class.com</p>
<p>Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i></p>	<p>All content developed under contract with the Kentucky Virtual High School is owned by the Kentucky Virtual High School. Developers do not retain any rights.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	<p>Full-time <u> 2 </u> Part-time <u> 25 </u> Third-party providers <u> 0 </u></p>
<p>Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i></p>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Kentucky; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses <p>Sixty percent of the responsibility of one of two full-time, contracted employees is allocated to monitor delivery of courses.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio varies by content area and teacher status.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i></p>	<p>Teachers are employed by the Kentucky Virtual High School.</p>

Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Management — full-time <u>1</u> Technical support — full-time <u>5</u> Administrative staff — full-time <u>1.5</u> (Staff provides support for registration, student records, teacher contracts, communications with schools, etc.)
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	Criteria are developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the Kentucky State Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy. State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.
Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	Success is measured by: number of students registered; number of students completing; number of schools participating; achievement averages; performance on AP exams; performance on End-of-Course-Assessments (2005-06); number of schools expanding offerings via Kentucky Virtual High School; number of students successfully completing retaking courses (credit recovery); number of drop-out recoveries who re-enroll in virtual academy and successfully complete coursework (first graduates in spring 2005); and number of repeating students and families. Performance of students in lower-performing schools is measured by noting when performance in online courses exceeds average performance in face-to-face classes.
Contact information	Key contact person: Linda Pittenger Title : Director, Secondary and Virtual Education E-mail address: lpitteng@kde.state.ky.us Telephone: 502-564-4772

	<p>State Virtual School Report SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p>June2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p>Louisiana Virtual School (LVS) Courses for Middle School — High School</p> <p>www.louisianavirtualschool.net</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	State Department of Education initiative, fall 2000.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	Three new Louisiana Virtual School courses have been developed and will be offered in the fall 2005 semester – AP American History, geometry, and independent study in Technology Applications. In fiscal year 2005-06 the LVS also will provide low-income students the opportunity to have their AP exam fees reimbursed through a U.S. Department of Education Advanced Placement Test Fee Program grant.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Louisiana State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>The Louisiana Virtual School Algebra I online project and its associated courses are funded with a Louisiana state legislative allocation. As part of the Louisiana Virtual School, this project provides Louisiana students with a certified and qualified Algebra I instructor and with a high-quality Algebra I course.</p> <p>A Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Quality Support Fund 8(g) grant is used to fund a portion of the Louisiana Virtual School courses and instruction (with the exception of Algebra I).</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Quality Support Fund 8(g) grant and the Algebra I legislative allocation cover all associated student costs.
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	<p>Advanced Placement <u> 2 </u></p> <p>Core academic <u> 20 </u></p> <p>Foreign language <u> 7 </u></p> <p>Technical/career education <u> 3 </u></p>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in</i>	The Louisiana Virtual School has 2,200+ student enrollments for the 2004-05 school year. 2,450 seats are currently occupied. (Some students take more than one course.)

<i>the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	<p>Middle school students, grade 8 — 230 students High school students, grades 9-12 — 1,995 student</p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>
<p>Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i></p>	Courses are developed by Louisiana teachers.
<p>Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i></p>	Louisiana teachers are contracted through the state to develop online virtual school courses. Therefore, the courses are “state” property as outlined in the contract.
<p>Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	<p>Full-time <u>14</u> Part-time <u>28</u></p>
<p>Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i></p>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Louisiana; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. <p>Online course statistics and grade data are actively monitored.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio: Louisiana Virtual School courses are capped at 25 students per section, with the exception of Algebra I and AP classes, which have a 20-seat limit per section.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i></p>	Louisiana Virtual School
<p>Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i></p>	<p>Management — full-time <u>2</u> part-time <u>2</u> Course design — full-time <u>1</u> (varies; depends on current need) Technical support — full-time <u>2</u> part-time <u>2</u></p>
<p>Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i></p>	Special training is provided for online teachers.
<p>Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure</i></p>	Course content is pre-approved by the Louisiana State Department of Education.

<p><i>quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i></p>	<p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy. State guidelines or SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students are used.</p>
<p>Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has an external program evaluator to measure the success of the program based on identified measurable objectives related to student achievement and enrollment.</p>
<p>Contact information</p>	<p>Key contact person: Ken Bradford Title: Educational Technology Consultant/ LVS Program Administrator E-mail address: Ken.Bradford@La.Gov Telephone: 225-763-5575</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program (MVLO) Courses for High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://mdk12online.org</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	Legislative initiative, May 2002.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program has had increased enrollments; more systems are viewing online courses as a viable instructional alternative for students.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Maryland State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	School districts Grants Users (tuition) Federal funds
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School districts Federal funds Parents Grants
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Advanced Placement <u> 10 </u> Core academic <u> 9 </u> Technical/career education <u> 3 </u> Non-core electives <u> 1 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	Total 2004-2005: <u> 302 </u> Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.

Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	<p>Courses are developed by the Maryland State Department of Education and school systems through collaborative grants</p> <p>Courses used are purchased from third-party providers, Florida Virtual School and AMDG, Inc.</p> <p>Courses are leased from Apex Learning, AMDG, Inc., Class.com and Florida Virtual School.</p>
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	<p>Compliance with intellectual property requirements is included in the student academic integrity agreement, in the contract for teachers and developers and also is included in the Request for Assistance (RFA) issued for Title IID grants for developing courses.</p>
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	<p>Part-time <u> 3 </u></p> <p>Teachers employed by third-party providers <u> 8 </u></p>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Maryland or any other state; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses. <p>Teachers are monitored through progress of students, quality of responses to students in discussions, chats, pages and quality of feedback on the assignments.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio varies.</p>
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	<p>State virtual school</p> <p>School district</p> <p>Course provider</p>
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Management — part-time <u> 1/2 </u></p> <p>Course design—part-time <u> 10 </u></p> <p>Technical support — part-time <u> 2 </u></p>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	<p>Criteria are developed and used to select online teachers.</p> <p>Special training is provided for online teachers.</p> <p>Online courses are systematically monitored.</p>
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.</p> <p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy.</p> <p>State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.</p>

<p>Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>Several measures are used:</p> <p>student performance (grades, completion, related assessments scores); surveys of students, parents, mentors, district level staff, teachers; and focus groups.</p> <p>The surveys used are available for others if requested.</p>
<p>Contact information</p>	<p>Key contact person: Liz Glowa Title: Coordinator, Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program E-mail address: lglowa@msde.state.md.us Telephone: 410-767-0734</p>

	<p>State Virtual School Report SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p>June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p>MOLLI (Mississippi Online Learning Institute) Courses for High School</p> <p>http://www.molli.mde.k12.ms.us</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	Mississippi State Department of Education initiative, 2002-2003.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	The Mississippi Department of Education has added more coursework to help meet the needs of the 152 school districts within the state. A course-evaluation tool is being implementing to enhance the quality of the online program.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Mississippi State Department of Education
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	Grants Users (tuition)
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School districts Parents Grants
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Advanced Placement <u> 11 </u> Core academic <u> 9 </u> Foreign language <u> 3 </u> Non-core electives <u> 3 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	Total 2004-2005: <u> 234 </u> Spring semester <u> 134 </u> Summer semester <u> 9 </u> Fall semester <u> 83 </u> High school students <u> 234 </u>

Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	<p>Courses are leased from Florida Virtual School, Aventa Learning and Class.com.</p>
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	<p>These issues are not addressed since courses are leased.</p>
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	<p>Full-time <u> 13 </u></p>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Mississippi; using criteria to select online teachers; and providing special training for online teachers. <p>Teacher/student ratio is not greater than 1:30.</p>
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	<p>MOLLI (Mississippi Online Learning Institute) — by contract.</p>
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Management — full-time <u> 1 </u> Technical support — full-time <u> 1 </u> Special project officer — full-time <u> 1 </u></p>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	<p>Special training is provided for online teachers.</p>
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the Mississippi State Department of Education.</p> <p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy.</p> <p>State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.</p>
Measuring success <i>How does your state Virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>Course and student evaluations have been implemented during the semester sessions.</p>
Contact information	<p>Key contact person: Melvin Robinson Title: Technology Planner E-mail address: merobinson@mde.k12.ms.us Telephone: 601-359-3954</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">North Carolina Distance Learning Program Courses for High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.ncpublicschools.org/distancelearning/student/index.html</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	<p>North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction Distance Learning initiative, 1999.</p>
Background information	<p>In school year 2005-2006, the State of North Carolina may operate two programs that provide online courses to students. Both programs would be supported by legislative allocations. The existing program began offering online courses to students in 1999. North Carolina supports online student courses and professional development through a legislative allocation for a statewide distance learning program. State-supported online courses are offered through partnerships among the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, LEARN NC, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Cumberland County Web Academy, and United Star Distance Learning Consortium.</p> <p>In December 2004 the Business and Education Technology Alliance, commissioned by Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue's office, recommended that the various partners and providers of online courses in North Carolina be consolidated into a statewide virtual school that would provide e-Learning opportunities for all citizens of the state. The General Assembly of North Carolina is currently considering a bill that would fund a virtual school pilot program to establish a structure and funding model for the North Carolina Virtual School. If the bill passes, the pilot could begin in school year 2005-2006. A transitional period of three to five years would allow existing online course programs to be consolidated under the new management structure.</p> <p>The following information describes the existing North Carolina Distance Learning Program of online courses for students.</p>
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	<p>The Business and Education Technology Alliance (BETA,) commissioned by the Lt. Governor's office, reported to the State Board of Education and the Legislature that e-Learning opportunities should be available to all citizens of the state. A bill is pending in the Legislature to fund a pilot project that would establish a virtual school by consolidating existing resources. The virtual school will focus on high school in the first phase but</p>

	eventually offer courses for middle and elementary students, adult education, and professional development for educators. The e-Learning Commission will report its recommendations to the State Board of Education in June 2005 and, if funded, the pilot will begin in school year 2005-2006.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	State legislative allocation has provided funding. Some AP courses were designed and offered under the federal AP Incentive Grant. The grant ends with this school year. LEARN NC, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the Cumberland County School System Web Academy offer AP courses in partnership with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. In addition, they provide courses for tuition independent of the North Carolina Distance Learning Program.
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	North Carolina State Legislature
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	Advanced Placement <u> 23 </u> Core academic <u> 84 </u> Foreign language <u> 28 </u> Technical/career education <u> 51 </u> Non-core electives <u> 159 </u>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	Total 2004-2005: <u> 1,889 </u> Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.
Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	Courses are developed within the state by LEARN NC, Web Academy and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Courses are purchased from third-party providers — United States Distance Learning Consortium (USDLC), Virtual High School (VHS) and Oklahoma State University.

Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	Ownership of courses developed with state funds are the property of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Courses purchased from providers are property of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	Teachers are employed by third-party providers.
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	Teacher quality is addressed by requiring teachers to be certified in North Carolina or any other state.
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	Teachers are employed by the course providers.
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	Management — full-time <u> 1 </u>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	No response provided.
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	Course content is pre-approved by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.
Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	North Carolina End-of-Course tests, AP test scores, student grades, and completion/pass rates.
Contact information	Key contact person: John Brim Title: Section Chief, Resources Development and Evaluation E-mail address: jbrim@dpi.state.nc.us Telephone: 919-807-3288

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June 2005

Oklahoma

Name of State Virtual School

Oklahoma currently has no state virtual school that provides online courses to middle and high school students.

Online courses are offered at the local level by contract between the provider of online courses (including commercial providers and colleges and universities) and the local board of education.

Contact information

Key contact person: Phil Applegate
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**State Virtual School Survey
SREB Educational Technology Cooperative**

June 2005

Name of State Virtual School

South Carolina

South Carolina currently has no state virtual school that provides online courses to middle and high school students.

Some school districts in South Carolina offer online courses to their students.

Contact information

Key contact person: Tammy Mainwaring
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Telephone: 803-734-7169

State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative June 2005	
Name of State Virtual School	⁴ TN (Tennessee)
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	Tennessee State Department of Education initiative, Jan 2003. School district initiative, Jan 2003.
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	⁴ TN has moved from the planning stages to implementation in the last six months. ⁴ TN will enter a Phase I high school pilot beginning with summer 2005 and continuing through spring 2006. One urban school district, using Tennessee-developed coursework, will pilot a shortened credit-recovery curriculum for summer 2005. One urban and one rural school district will pilot up to 10 Tennessee-developed courses beginning in the fall 2005. Phase II of the pilot will include additional school districts and up to 20 Tennessee-developed courses ready for implementation in fall 2006.
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	Tennessee State Department of Education. There also is a partnership with a school district for coursework creation.
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	School districts can apply general education funds. Tennessee Department of Education provides grants to districts. School districts recover some development costs by charging tuition to users. Federal funds may offer future possibilities for funding.
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	School districts Parents Grants
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	These statistics reflect the present data available for Phase 1 of the high school pilot virtual school that begins in summer 2005 and continues through spring 2006. Advanced Placement <u> 3 </u> Core academic <u> 9 </u> Technical/career education <u> 2 </u> Non-core electives <u> 1 </u>

Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	<p>There were no students enrolled in 2004-05.</p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>
Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	<p>Courses are developed within the Tennessee State Department of Education and through a joint partnership with Hamilton County Schools.</p>
Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	<p>Tennessee State Department of Education owns all courses.</p>
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	<p>This has not been determined at the present time.</p>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in Tennessee or any other state; using criteria to select online teachers; and providing special training for online teachers.
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	<p>School district Course provider</p>
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Management — part-time <u> 3 </u> Course design — part-time <u> 17 </u> Technical support — part-time <u> 3 </u></p>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	<p>No response provided.</p>
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the state department of education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy. State guidelines or <i>SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students</i> are used.</p>
Measuring success <i>How does your state Virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>There is insufficient data available for measuring success at the time of the printing of this report.</p>

Contact information	<p>Key contact person: Jill Ashworth Balthrop Title: Director of Integrated Technology E-mail address: Jill.Balthrop@state.tn.us ; Telephone: 615-532-3313</p> <p>Other contact: Dan A. Long, temp 5/23/05 Title: Director of Evaluation and Assessment E-mail address: Dan.Long@state.tn.us Telephone: 615-253-5031</p>
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Name of State Virtual School

Texas

Texas currently has no state virtual school that provides online courses to middle and high school students.

Some school districts in Texas offer online courses to their students.

Current status

Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.

No state virtual school currently exists in Texas. However, new legislation, House Bill 1445, has been introduced to create a statewide virtual school network. If enacted into law, Texas public schools and open-enrollment charter schools will be allowed to earn state funding for students who are not physically present at school while participating in an electronic course or program. Students served might live within the service area of the district or school providing the course or they might live elsewhere in the state. The State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) would approve courses and ensure that course content meets state curriculum standards. Only school districts and open-enrollment charter schools would be allowed to submit courses to the TEA for approval. These “provider school districts and schools” would be allowed to develop courses or make arrangements to acquire courses from other sources, such as higher education, private companies or other providers. (By SBOE rule, Texas regional education service centers would be allowed to participate in the state network in the same manner as provider school districts and schools.)

The outcome of HB 1445 was unknown at the time of the printing of this report.

Contact information

Key contact person: Kate Loughrey
 Title: Director of Distance Learning, Texas Education Agency
 E-mail address: Kate.Loughrey@tea.state.tx.us
 Telephone: 512-936-2265

	<p>State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p><u>June 2005</u></p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p>Virginia Virtual AP School</p> <p>http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/VAPS.html</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Legislative initiative in 1983 to deliver courses via satellite. Gubernatorial initiative in 2004.</p>
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	<p>The Virginia Virtual AP School has increased the number of AP courses from five to 15 and increased the number of sections from 12 to 49 in the last two years. A full-time statewide coordinator has been hired.</p>
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	<p>Virginia State Department of Education</p>
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>State legislative allocation</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	<p>Virginia State Legislature School districts</p>
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	<p>Advanced Placement <u> 15 </u> Foreign language <u> 7 </u></p>
Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year?</i>	<p>Total <u> 1,400 </u></p> <p>Spring semester <u> 200 </u> Fall semester <u> 1,200 </u></p> <p>Middle grades students <u> 200 </u> High school students <u> 1,200 </u></p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>
Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i>	<p>Courses are developed within the state by school districts, and they are leased from Apex Learning.</p>

Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i>	<p>Providers obtain all necessary licenses for online labs, software, materials, etc. The Virginia Department of Education takes ownership of materials developed under course development grants.</p> <p>Student and facilitator handbooks will address intellectual property responsibilities at the user level in the 2005-2006 revisions.</p>
Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i>	<p>Full-time <u>12</u></p> <p>Teachers employed by third-party providers <u>35</u></p>
Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by requiring teachers to be certified in Virginia or any other state.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio is 1:40.</p>
Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i>	<p>School district</p> <p>Course provider</p>
Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i>	<p>Management — full-time <u>3</u> part-time <u>1</u></p> <p>Technical support — full-time <u>4</u></p> <p>Administrative assistants — full-time <u>2</u></p>
Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i>	<p>No response provided</p>
Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i>	<p>Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy.</p>
Measuring success <i>How does your state Virtual school measure success of the effort?</i>	<p>Student enrollment in courses continues to be monitored. Requests for additional courses, including summer school and dual enrollment classes, are also being evaluated for future planning. Student scores on AP exams will be collected and compared to national norms. Several providers have conducted informal student satisfaction surveys, and plans are under way to begin gathering additional data in 2005-2006.</p>
Contact information	<p>Key contact person: Cathy Cheely Title: E-Learning Coordinator E-mail address: Cathy.Cheely@doe.virginia.gov Telephone: 804-225-2972</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">State Virtual School Survey SREB Educational Technology Cooperative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 2005</p>
Name of State Virtual School	<p style="text-align: center;">West Virginia Virtual School (WVVS) Courses for Middle School — High School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://virtualschool.k12.wv.us</p>
Initial implementation <i>What initiative was the catalyst for implementing the state virtual school</i>	<p>Legislative initiative, July 2000. West Virginia State Department of Education initiative in October 2000.</p> <p>In July 1999 educators from throughout West Virginia, SREB, legislators, West Virginia Department of Education staff, West Virginia Board of Education, and other stakeholders spent a week designing the concepts of a state virtual school to meet West Virginia needs.</p>
Current status <i>Briefly describe changes occurring within the last six months.</i>	<p>If there are any changes, they may begin after July 1, 2005.</p>
Management <i>Under whose direction does the state virtual school operate?</i>	<p>West Virginia State Department of Education.</p>
Funding <i>What is the source of funding to support the operation of the state virtual school?</i>	<p>State legislative allocation to the West Virginia Department of Education for the West Virginia Virtual School.</p>
Tuition <i>Who pays for the students to enroll and take courses?</i>	<p>State legislature provides allocation to the West Virginia Virtual School to pay tuition for students and administrative costs.</p> <p>School districts may pay for tuition. Parents may pay for tuition</p>
Course offerings <i>What courses does the state virtual school offer?</i>	<p>These statistics represent multiple instances of the same course from different providers.</p> <p>Advanced Placement <u> 27 </u> Core academic <u> 72 </u> Foreign language <u> 35 </u> Technical/career education <u> 35 </u> Non-core electives <u> 71 </u></p>

<p>Student information <i>What is the total number of students enrolled in the state virtual school during 2004-05 school year.</i></p>	<p>Total: <u>1,246</u> From June 2004 to May 2005 there were 1,355 enrollments. This represents 1,246 students.</p> <p>Spring semester <u>43</u> (These enrollments reflect the policy change to parent or local district payment after funding was expended.) Summer semester <u>91</u> Fall semester <u>1,221</u></p> <p>Middle school students <u>622</u> High school students <u>733</u></p> <p>Students are permitted to take all or part of courses at home or other locations away from school.</p>
<p>Courses <i>How does the state virtual school obtain courses?</i></p>	<p>Courses are developed through contracts by the West Virginia Department of Education. Courses are purchased from various third-party providers See the list provided on the Web site Courses are shared through partnerships with Florida Virtual School through SREB Courses may be obtained from other sources as they are needed and identified.</p>
<p>Intellectual property <i>How does the state virtual school address intellectual property issues?</i></p>	<p>Guidance on intellectual property issues is addressed through the West Virginia Department of Education legal department</p>
<p>Teachers <i>Who teaches the courses?</i></p>	<p>Full-time <u>2</u> Part-time <u>16</u> Teachers are employed by third-party providers.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>How does your state address teacher quality?</i></p>	<p>Teacher quality is addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring teachers be certified in West Virginia; using criteria to select online teachers; providing special training for online teachers; and systematically monitoring delivery of online courses by making on-site visits to the classrooms and to the teacher's workspace for observation evaluations. <p>In both state-owned and vendor-provided courses, staff consistently monitors student progress by looking at their on-line progress reports as well as those regularly provided by the course providers. Close contact is maintained with the student's mentors to get</p>

	<p>feedback on any problem areas with either teachers or course providers.</p> <p>Teacher/student ratio varies.</p>
<p>Teachers <i>By whom are teachers employed?</i></p>	<p>State virtual school Course provider</p>
<p>Staff <i>Who and how many persons work with the state virtual school?</i></p>	<p>Management — full-time <u> 1 </u> Technical support — part-time <u> 1 </u> Secretary — part-time <u> 1 </u></p>
<p>Instruction <i>What are the quality instruction issues?</i></p>	<p>Criteria are developed and used to select online teachers. Special training is provided for online teachers. Online courses are systematically monitored.</p>
<p>Accountability <i>How does the state virtual school ensure quality courses and alignment with state academic standards?</i></p>	<p>Course content is pre-approved by the West Virginia State Department of Education. Courses are monitored to ensure quality of content, interactivity and pedagogy. State guidelines or SREB Essential Principles of Quality: Guidelines for Web-based Courses for Middle and High School Students are used.</p>
<p>Measuring success <i>How does your state virtual school measure success of the effort?</i></p>	<p>The West Virginia Department of Education has received a US Department of Education evaluation grant and is in the 2nd year of the research.</p>
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