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Describe the Project

Florida Virtual School is an established leader in developing and providing middle and high school virtual education solutions to students throughout the country. FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country’s first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. The Florida DOE believed that students needed as many educational choices as possible. It is within that spirit that Florida Virtual School was created and legislatively supported.

In 1996, a handful of educators gathered around a table in Orlando and began to ask questions like, “What would school look like if we reinvented it and put it online?” They wondered if virtual learning, which was becoming commonplace in post-secondary education, would even work for secondary learners. What would they have to do to make it work? And how might it change the way we do this thing called “school”?

Describe Implementation

FLVS has shown exponential enrollment growth over the years. In 1997 we asked the question “if we build it will they come?” and had 77 enrollments. We now know the answer to that question is a resounding “yes.” FLVS has grown by more than 30% each year and the number of students that desire the opportunity for education *any time, any place, any path, any pace* continues to increase.

According to TaxWatch’s research, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) students have had high academic success in two critical areas of measurement: Test scores and grades earned in courses. Their study found that over the years, FLVS students performed higher than the state average in both reading and math. ¹

2006 Performance on Math

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
FLVS	70%	79%	87%	86%	82%
State Avg	53%	55%	60%	59%	65%

2006 Performance on Reading

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10
FLVS	80%	83%	81%	74%	49%
State Avg	64%	61%	46%	40%	32%

Recent national research has indicated that students earning a score of 3 or higher in one or more of the AP exam core course areas of English, mathematics, science, or social studies were more likely to graduate from college in five years or less when compared to non-AP students¹. FLVS students consistently outperform peers on AP Exams:

...In 2004-2005

FLVS Students: 2.89
 Public School Students: 2.54
 State Average for all FL students: 2.61

And...in 2005-2006

FLVS Students: 3.05
 Public School Students: 2.49
 State Average for all FL Students 2.56

The success of FLVS students on FCAT scores, AP Exams, and in regular courses can be attributed to the quality of FLVS teachers as well as the school’s instructional approach. All FLVS teachers are Florida certified in the area in which they provide instruction. In 2007, more than 64% held advanced degrees, and 76 held a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) credential. ¹