



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connections Academy to Operate Mississippi Virtual Public School – Approved to Open for 2010-2011 School Year

-- Leader in Virtual Education is Exclusive Turnkey Provider of Courses, Teachers and Platform for Mississippi's Statewide Supplementary Online Program; Students Gain Access to Online AP and Foreign Language Courses --

JACKSON, MS (August 4, 2010) - Leading national virtual education provider, Connections Academy (www.connectionsacademy.com) announced today that it has been awarded the contract to operate Mississippi's statewide supplemental online program, the Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS). The Mississippi Legislature voted last spring to contract with an outside provider to deliver the MVPS which was previously operated by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Connections Academy was selected as the turnkey provider through a rigorous Request for Proposal process by MDE.

Established by legislation in 2006, the Mississippi Virtual Public School is a tuition-free program that offers students the option to enroll in online courses to supplement to their traditional, bricks and mortar, education. More than 20,000 course enrollments have been served through MVPS in the past five years.

Starting this fall, students in grades 9-12 across Mississippi will gain the opportunity to experience Connections Academy's high-quality [online courses](#) and experienced teachers. In particular, Connections Academy will meet the need for Advanced Placement and foreign language courses. Students will be able to choose from online courses such as Advanced Placement English Literature and Calculus, Latin, German, Art History, Digital Photography, Psychology, Game Design, and much more.

Interested students are required to gain approval from their local school before they can take online courses through MVPS. Private and homeschool students must meet the same requirement and can use the local public school for which they are zoned.



With Connections Academy, Mississippi students will gain access to innovative online AP and foreign language courses.

“It is clear that Mississippi is dedicated to offering quality education and innovative educational options to its students and we are honored to have been selected to operate the Mississippi Virtual Public School,” commented Mickey Revenaugh, Senior Vice President of State Relations for Connections Academy. “Our goal is to build on the work the state has invested in MVPS while cost-effectively expanding online learning opportunities for Mississippi students.”

“We are pleased to partner with Connections Academy to serve students across the state of Mississippi with an expanded online learning option,” said Dr. Lynn House, Deputy State Superintendent. “We were very impressed with the Connections Academy program and are confident that their stewardship of MVPS will enrich education in our state.”

Connections Academy, known for its commitment to quality and student success, expects to serve more than 2,000 Mississippi students a choice of hundreds of online courses through MVPS. In addition, Connections Academy teachers will enhance the online learning experience. In a [recent parent satisfaction survey](#), 97% of parents with students enrolled in a Connections Academy school praised the responsiveness, accessibility and professionalism of their student’s teacher and 96% rated the curriculum “excellent” or “good.”

About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading national provider of high-quality virtual education. It operates virtual public and private schools in the U.S. for students in grades K–12 and is a provider of online courses for schools nationwide. Connections Academy schools deliver top quality, personalized education for students that combines certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences to create a supportive and successful environment for children who want an individualized approach to education. Connections Academy’s online course program provides schools across the country with a turnkey online learning solution offering innovative courses and teaching support. In the 2010–2011 school year, Connections Academy will serve students in Arizona, California (Southern and Central), Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming through its public school programs. It serves students in all states in the U.S. through the online private school, National Connections Academy. Connections Academy offers grades K through 12, though some schools do not offer all grades. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com.

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