



# The Education Cooperative Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School (TECCA) Offerings to Massachusetts Districts



## About TECCA

The Education Cooperative Connections Academy Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School (TECCA) is a tuition-free virtual public school district with 130 faculty and staff that serves a diverse population of 2,300 Massachusetts students in grades K–12 across Massachusetts. TECCA offers:

- A rigorous, comprehensive educational option for students seeking an alternative to the traditional brick and mortar setting;
- Online courses aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, provides instructional differentiation, including textual, visual, auditory and hands-on learning opportunities;
- An environment that is free of distractions that is safe and a great fit for students who have social emotional concerns, have medical conditions, need a flexible schedule, have immunocompromised family members, or those students who feel they better fit in a virtual schooling environment;
- Continuity of learning, every day, and without interruption regardless of the many internal or external factors; and
- Individualized learning opportunities, which accommodate a wide range of learning preferences, balanced with optimum interaction with peers and TECCA faculty and staff.

The mission of TECCA is to offer Massachusetts students a quality online alternative to the traditional classroom by providing a supportive, individualized program of study; effective instruction; engaging learning experiences; and diverse curriculum offerings to stimulate curiosity, advance personal growth, and promote academic achievement.



### **Authorized and Accredited**

TECCA was sponsored in its application to be a Commonwealth virtual school by The Education Cooperative in November 2013 and was approved by its authorizer (the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) as Massachusetts' second Commonwealth virtual school on February 25, 2014. TECCA is accountable directly to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and is autonomous of all other public bodies, including its sponsor.

Additionally, TECCA is accredited by North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), an accrediting division of Cognia, formerly AdvancED.



## TECCA Course Offerings

Connections Academy's user-friendly system, Connexus®, lets students access a welcoming and collaborative learning experience anywhere they have an Internet connection. TECCA is able to offer access to Connexus and the high quality courses designed for TECCA and its students.

Our course catalog is aligned to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and contains courses in the following categories for grades K-12: Core Courses, Advanced Courses (Advanced Placement, Honors, Gifted and Talented), Elective Courses, and Foundations Courses.

TECCA is also able to offer certified teachers to those districts who need it. The credentialed, certified teacher provides student- and teacher-initiated direct instruction, serves as the teacher of record, responds to student-initiated email and telephone calls; grades assignments; moderates discussion boards; and assigns final grades.

### **TECCA Course Offerings:**

**Option 1. TECCA Single Core Course with a Certified Online Teacher** - With this license, students would be enrolled to any single core course (Math, Science, Social Studies, and ELA).

**Option 2. TECCA Core Bundle of Courses with Certified Online Teachers** - With this license type, students will be able to access the core bundle of courses in the TECCA library: English, mathematics, social studies, and science.

### ***24/7 Customer Support***

TECCA Course users would have access to a student technical support help desk and a school technical support help desk to answer questions promptly and courteously by email and phone. This is available to any and all users, regardless of the technology they use. Additionally, students, teachers, parents, and staff have 24/7 access to an extensive searchable Online Help system and online training resources on numerous topics.

The School Support Help Desk for teachers, administrators and staff is available from 9 AM – 9 PM ET. The Student Support Help Desk is available from 6 AM – 9 PM ET Monday through Friday, and 8 AM – 5 PM ET Saturday and Sunday.