



For Immediate Release

Florida Virtual School Full Time Now Available to Kindergarten–12th Grade Students Statewide

Digital Learning Now Act Expands Virtual Education, More Students Gain Access to Florida Virtual School Full Time’s Award-Winning Program

Orlando, FL (July 14, 2011) – Starting in the 2011–12 school year, Florida students from across the state will be able to enroll directly in the highly regarded online school, [Florida Virtual School Full Time](#) (FLVS FT). The recent passing of the *Digital Learning Now Act* expands online learning options and provides the opportunity for FLVS FT to serve students throughout Florida, regardless of where they live in the state.

The Act also removes certain enrollment requirements, including a “prior public school enrollment” requirement that limited access to only students who attended a public school in the prior year. Now students in Kindergarten, grade 1, and grades 6–12 can enroll directly in the FLVS FT Public Program regardless of prior enrollment. Prior enrollment in a Florida public school remains a requirement, however, for students entering grades 2–5 in the 2011–12 school year. Of note for high school students, starting in 2012–13, FLVS FT will be offering a diploma which will ease the transition into college and career.

Florida Virtual School continues to offer both part-time and full-time options for home education, open to all Florida students in grades 6–12.

FLVS FT is an award-winning, comprehensive education program from Florida Virtual School in partnership with Connections Academy—both national leaders in online education. The program is a tuition-free public school option that combines a personalized education approach, a high quality curriculum, and dedicated teachers. Students at FLVS FT are held to the same levels of accountability as all public school students and must take the same state assessments. The virtual school year mirrors the 180-day traditional school calendar.

All FLVS FT options are free to Florida students and offer the same rigorous standards and tailored instruction with different features and flexibility in order to meet the needs of Florida families. For more information about FLVS FT visit www.flvsft.com.

“FLVS FT offers Kindergarten–12 students flexibility, personalization, and engaging courseware,” said Chief Learning Officer for Florida Virtual School, Pam Birtolo, “Our full-time program combines highly qualified teachers, dedicated parents, and our award-winning curriculum for students learning in a home environment. Our curriculum includes both online and offline instruction and materials. This combination creates a personalized, high-quality learning experience that helps students succeed.”

"The Digital Learning Now Act has really opened up new virtual school options for students across the state of Florida. Students who were unable to attend FLVS FT due to enrollment restrictions can now benefit from our fully accredited, successful program," commented Jim Flanagan, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships for Connections Academy. "We have seen strong parental demand for our online school program and look forward to meeting and exceeding expectations and helping students achieve both academically and emotionally with a school program tailored to their needs."

Enrollment is now open and detailed information on new options for the 2011–12 school year can be found at www.flvsft.com. For more information about individual FLVS courses to supplement your home education program please visit: www.flvs.net/Students/Pages/Homeschoolers.aspx or call 407–513–3587.

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About Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual Kindergarten–12 education solutions to students all over Florida, the U.S. and the world. A nationally recognized e-Learning model and recipient of numerous awards, FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country's first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS serves students in Kindergarten–12th grades and provides a variety of custom solutions for schools and districts to meet student needs.

About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading, fully accredited provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual schooling for students in grades K through 12. Through tuition-free public schools, and full-time and part-time private school programs, Connections Academy delivers superior, personalized education for students, with the freedom and flexibility to experience our online learning community from anywhere. The combination of certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences creates a supportive and successful online learning opportunity for families and children who want an individualized approach to education. In the 2011–12 school year, Connections Academy will serve students in 22 states via 23 virtual public schools. It serves students worldwide through the online private school, National Connections Academy. Connections Academy offers grades K through 12, though some public school programs do not offer all grades. Connections Academy is a division of Connections Education LLC. For more information, call 800–382–6010 or visit www.ConnectionsAcademy.com.

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