



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Connections Education Approved as Virtual Learning Provider by Commonwealth of Virginia**

***-- Leading Online Education Provider can Offer Full-Time, Supplemental and Blended Instruction to K-12 Students Statewide in 2011-2012 School Year —***

**BALTIMORE, MD (July 14, 2011)** – [Connections Education \(www.ConnectionsEducation.com\)](http://www.ConnectionsEducation.com), a leading, fully-accredited provider of K–12 online learning solutions, has been approved by Virginia State Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright to provide virtual instruction to students in all Virginia public K–12 school divisions statewide.

With the advent of the 2011–12 school year, Connections Education products and services will be available to Virginia schools and districts looking to enhance their e-learning offerings with state-approved online learning. Schools and districts may choose to partner with Connections Education to deliver a wide range of virtual learning opportunities, ranging from a full-time Connections Academy school, to blended programs that meld virtual and classroom instruction, to online courses offered through the company's Connections Learning division. All the Connections Education solutions—proven and public-school tested over the past decade—combine rigorous content, state-of-the-art technology, and certified teachers to deliver a high-quality, accountable virtual education.

“Virginia school divisions now can broaden the array of courses they offer—and reach out to more nontraditional students—by contracting with virtual schools or online providers that meet criteria and standards set by the Board of Education,” Wright said. “Online courses provided by Connections Education and others will open doors and create new opportunities for the commonwealth’s students.”

Bringing virtual learning to Virginia aligns with Gov. Bob McDonnell's effort to expand access to innovative curriculum and courses, while ensuring quality and alignment with state academic standards. McDonnell's "Opportunity to Learn" education reform agenda was approved in the 2010 General Assembly. The legislation allows school divisions to offer online instruction to students in multiple school divisions by entering into contracts with private organizations, educational

institutions, or nonprofit virtual-school organizations that meet Board of Education criteria and have been approved by the state superintendent.

Connections Education offers high-quality online courses to a variety of students across the nation. Its [Connections Academy](#) division has delivered individualized learning to students through full-time [virtual public schools](#) for a decade. In the 2011–12 school year, the [AdvancED](#)<sup>™</sup>-accredited Connections Academy will operate 23 virtual public schools in 22 states and is expected to serve more than 40,000 students. Connections Education also offers tuition-based schooling through the National Connections Academy online private school, serving students throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Leveraging Connections Academy’s resources, expertise, and proven results, the company’s [Connections Learning](#) division offers institutional partners, including school districts in Virginia, a range of high-quality, affordable digital solutions customized to fit a school or district’s resources and students’ needs.

Of the virtual school and online providers approved by the state superintendent, Connections Education has the largest catalog of online core and elective courses, including Advanced Placement, honors, world languages and art history, among others. Connections Education is also one of only two approved online providers that can offer these courses across the K–12 grade span, and also one of only two approved for elementary courses.

“Education is no longer confined to the walls of a classroom. Connections Education is devoted to providing students a rich virtual learning experience through a combination of exceptional standards-aligned courses, individualized instruction and dedicated teachers,” said Mickey Revenaugh, Executive Vice President for Business Development. “We look forward to serving students across Virginia and expanding the learning opportunities available to them.”

**For more information about Connections Education’s innovative virtual schools and programs, visit [www.ConnectionsEducation.com](http://www.ConnectionsEducation.com).**

### **About Connections Education**

Connections Education is a leading, fully-accredited provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12. Since 2001, the company’s **Connections Academy** division has delivered individualized learning to students through virtual public schools and a private online academy. In the 2011–12 school year, 23 Connections Academy virtual public schools will operate in 22 states and expect to serve more than 40,000 students from across the U.S. The **Connections Learning** division meets the needs of schools, school districts, and other

institutions looking to develop and enhance their online learning programs. Connections Learning delivers a full range of targeted digital learning solutions to the K-12 education community including online courses, a program for homebound students, a digital learning platform, and more. More than 300 schools, school districts, state departments of education and other educational institutions, serving tens of thousands of students throughout the United States and beyond, are already utilizing Connections Learning products and services. Connections Education is committed to expanding quality education through technology and helping students achieve both academic and personal success.

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