



## Connect to Online Learning

During the 80th Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1788 established a state virtual school network to provide online courses for Texas students. The legislation set forth the operational, course review, and professional development requirements for the network. Region 10 Education Service Center, in collaboration with Harris County Department of Education, serves as Central Operations for the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN), and Region 4 Education Service Center conducts the review of online courses to be offered in the TxVSN catalog. In addition, professional development providers are approved to train educators to deliver online instruction through the TxVSN. The Texas Virtual School Network began serving students in January 2009 with a catalog of foundation courses available for a fee. Recently, the 81st Texas Legislature created a "state virtual school allotment" in House Bill 3646. The allotment appropriation will be used to provide funding if students successfully complete online courses offered through the TxVSN.

### Quality Online Courses

The TxVSN acts as a statewide clearinghouse for courses provided by Texas school districts, open enrollment charter schools, education service centers, and public or private institutions of higher education. Each high school course in the TxVSN catalog is reviewed for 100% alignment to course TEKS and the International Association for K-12 Online Learning's National Standards of Quality for Online Courses. Once approved by TxVSN Course Review, the course catalog displays all approved courses with a detailed course description with objectives, associated technology specifications,

schedule, assessments, costs, and other relevant data. Because courses may vary in pacing and timeline, district personnel use the detailed information to select the course that best meets each student's needs.

TxVSN high school courses are led by online instructors with Texas certification in the course subject area and grade level. Each instructor teaching an online high school course must complete TxVSN-approved professional development. The combination of subject area knowledge with training in the unique methods for delivering online instruction provides Texas students with a quality interactive learning experience.

### Planning for Success

Public school districts and open enrollment charter schools are encouraged to review local needs to determine if TxVSN courses can serve as a supplemental option for students. Districts and open enrollment charter schools participating in TxVSN must complete an annual TxVSN agreement, an online course needs assessment, and pre-assess its students' readiness for online learning. Supporting staff, such as a TxVSN Site Coordinator, will be designated at the time of application. Site Coordinators assist in identifying, registering and approving online course enrollments for students. Most important, the Site Coordinator or other designated staff, must provide ongoing support for students while online courses are underway. Research has proven that ongoing communication between the course instructor, the student, and a local campus mentor such as the Site Coordinator has a significant, positive impact on successful course completion.



Read more on the reverse side!

Need help getting connected?

Call 1-866-938-9876 or email  
[txvsncentral@txvsn.org](mailto:txvsncentral@txvsn.org)





## Improve Completion Rate

**Credit Advancement:** Provide online courses for early graduation and for students seeking to accelerate progress on the recommended or distinguished achievement graduation plans

**Credit Recovery:** Provide opportunities for students to recover credit in foundation or elective courses.

**Schedule Conflicts:** Leverage online courses to supplement the campus master schedule and meet personalized student needs



## Build Relevance , Rigor , Relationships

**Rigor:** Provide students with rigorous, TEKS-aligned, online courses that meet national standards for online learning.

**Instructor Led:** Offer online courses, led by a Texas certified teachers, providing a high level of student-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction.

**Advanced Placement and Dual Credit:** Offer courses for college credit that are not currently available to your students.

**4X4 requirements:** Use these supplemental courses to solve schedule conflicts and provide flexibility for students.

**21st Century Learning:** Give students the opportunity to participate *now* in the learning environment that is rapidly becoming a standard in higher education and advanced work force training.

**Staff Involvement:** Leverage teachers and online courses from another district while your campus drives student registration, mentors its students, and then awards credit for success.

## Use State Virtual School Allotment Funding

**The state virtual school allotment** pays the cost of the course for the participating districts! No up-front payment is necessary if the course is taken during an allotment eligible semester!

For each student who successfully completes an online course that satisfies a graduation requirement and is provided through the TxVSN, then:

- the district providing the course is entitled to an allotment of \$400 and
- the student's district is entitled to an allotment of \$80 per course.

