

A young woman with curly hair is sitting at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. She is smiling and appears to be engaged in her work. The background shows other computer monitors and a bright, airy classroom environment. The entire image has a blue tint.

*Transforming education worldwide—  
one student at a time*

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

FLORIDA VIRTUAL  
SCHOOL



## MISSION

To deliver a high quality, technology-based education that provides the skills and knowledge students need for success.

## VISION

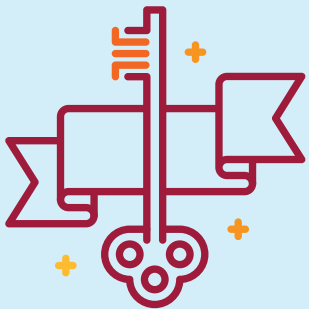
To transform education worldwide—one student at a time.

## VALUES

Put People First  
Take the Lead  
Blaze the Trail  
Love What You Do

## COMMITMENT

The student is at the center of every decision we make.



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*Term Expired September 2018*

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**Ms. Robin Winder**  
Executive Director, Full Time Instruction

*\*As of December 2018*

# *The student is at the center of every decision we make.*

The 2017-18 school year marked the 20th anniversary of Florida Virtual School (FLVS). The 20-year anniversary of FLVS is not only a historic occasion for the first statewide Internet-based school in the United States but is also a significant and positive milestone for virtual education.

**When founded in 1997, FLVS consisted of six teachers, four support staff, 77 enrollments, and six courses. The use of online education tools was still new for the high schoolers of 1997.**

That initial small group of faculty and staff served in multiple roles at the same time, often acting as teacher, community liaison, course developer, and even legislative advocate. Technology in the late 1990s consisted of noisy dial-up modems, slow internet browsing ability, and large box desktop computers. As cellphones and emails were not yet the primary forms of communication in 1997, most of the staff relied on beepers and pay phones to speak to others while out in the field.

Today, FLVS employs more than 2,200 support staff and Florida certified instructors who use a wide variety of resources and integrated systems and have access to professional development opportunities. FLVS students are digital natives and benefit from more than 180 FLVS online courses. FLVS boasts more than 4.1 million semester completions since its inception in 1997, with more than 492,000 semester completions in 2017-18. Our students continue to outperform state averages on End-of-Course Exams and on Advanced Placement Exams.

FLVS provided courses and services to 65 school districts through 35 Florida District Franchises. In 2017-18, students attending FLVS District Virtual Schools successfully completed more than 168,800 semester completions.

In addition to working directly with Florida students, FLVS has expanded due to demand beyond state lines, providing its courseware experience to online and blended learning programs in schools and districts across the nation. This expansion ultimately allows FLVS to stretch every dollar invested in Kindergarten–12 state education programs

and helps our Florida schools achieve their academic performance goals.

All that FLVS has accomplished is the result of dedicated students, instructional and administrative staff as well as the amazing parents of our students. We are grateful for the continued support from the Governor, legislators, and our Board of Trustees.

**Thanks to everyone who shares our vision, FLVS has been able to show the value of online learning in providing flexible learning opportunities, improving educational outcomes, and preparing students for future success across Florida and around the world, both in the job market and transitioning to their next academic endeavor.**





# About Florida Virtual School

Originally founded in 1997, Florida Virtual School is a public school district comprised of six schools (FLVS Flex Elementary, 6-8, and 9-12; and FLVS Full Time Elementary, 6-8, 9-12) serving all Florida school districts. FLVS also offers a tuition-based option for students outside of Florida through FLVS Global School and provides content licensing, training, and expertise to a variety of online and blended learning programs across the nation. Through a variety of personalized instructional offering, FLVS students are able to build an educational plan that fits their unique needs. All teachers are state certified in the content areas they teach and have completed extensive professional development in online education. FLVS, the district and its schools are accredited by AdvancED and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). SACS CASI is an accrediting division of AdvancED. FLVS serves Florida students free of charge.

Today, FLVS offers more than 180 courses, including Advanced Placement® (AP®), honors, NCAA-approved core, world languages, electives, college prep, and career and technical education courses.

FLVS students have achieved  
**4.1 million**  
semester completions since  
inception in 1997.



Students interact with teachers and peers in live learning sessions and collaborative assignments, with the opportunities to participate in clubs, events, activities—even virtual field trips! Our competency-based learning model gives students the chance for continuous improvement. Performance-based funding means FLVS only receives funding when students successfully complete courses through FLVS Flex and FLVS Full time schools.



## FLVS FLEX SCHOOLS

FLVS Flex scheduling is available to public, private, charter, and homeschool students in Kindergarten–12th grade, on a 365-day flexible calendar. Students can take FLVS courses when enrolled in addition to a brick-and-mortar school, or a full-time course load when enrolled as a homeschool student. With a full engaging curriculum, including elementary courses, Flex students utilize FLVS for a variety of reasons ranging from wanting to get ahead or graduate early to taking courses not offered by their district and having flexibility with extracurricular activities.

## FLVS FULL TIME SCHOOLS

FLVS Full Time scheduling is available to students in grades Kindergarten–12. Students follow a 180-day traditional school calendar, take all courses through FLVS Full Time, and graduate with an FLVS diploma. Courses are available 24/7 online, so students can study any time and any place. Our certified teachers offer one-on-one attention, and are available by phone, email, and text. Students stay connected with their peers through in-person clubs and activities.



**492,507**  
semester completions  
in 2017-18

Flex: 420,604  
Full Time: 71,903



**207,367**  
students served  
in 2017-18

Flex: 200,886  
Full Time: 6,481





## student spotlight: Sierra Boodhoo

**287**  
Digital learning labs  
in 2017-18



### FLVS DIGITAL LEARNING LABS IN FLORIDA

The FLVS digital and blended learning models allow districts to introduce new courses and address challenges such as teacher shortages, class-size reduction, scheduling conflicts, grade forgiveness, and more.

**168,807**  
FLVS Florida district  
franchises semester  
completions in 2017-18



### FLVS FLORIDA DISTRICT FRANCHISES

Through Florida District Franchises, districts have access to FLVS elementary, middle, and high school courses and technology systems, and receive student support and teacher training while still using their own teachers to teach the courses. In 2017-18, 65 Florida districts powered their district virtual schools with FLVS.

**5,196**  
Global School  
semester completions  
in 2017-18

### FLVS GLOBAL SCHOOL

FLVS Global School serves middle and high school students around the nation and world through tuition-based instruction. Public, private, and homeschool students can choose from more than 118 courses, including electives, honors, Advanced Placement and NCAA-approved core. FLVS Global School has served students in all 50 states and in more than 65 countries.

Sierra Boodhoo, FLVS Flex 10th grade student, is passionate about the world, sharks and ocean life, and her studies. Taking FLVS courses for the past four years has helped her pursue her passions and she is an ambassador for One Ocean Global and Conservation Ocean, as well as a Model United Nations delegate.

**"FLVS allows me to take all the classes I need to be successful, and the flexibility for me to complete my schoolwork throughout my busy schedule. FLVS has made a huge impact on my life."**



# Providing the skills and knowledge students need for success

## AP SCORES

Based on May 2018 AP Exams, FLVS students outperformed state overall averages by 11 percent in comparing the 15 AP courses offered by FLVS and scored above those state qualifying AP averages in 11 of the 15 courses. FLVS students performed above the national overall average by 4 percent in comparing the 15 AP courses offered by FLVS.

**11%** higher AP scores than the state average



**4%** higher AP scores than the national average

## EOC SCORES

Based on the Spring 2018 End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, FLVS students outperformed state averages on the Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry, and U.S. History EOC Assessments.

**20%** higher Full Time Biology EOC scores than the state average



**12%** higher Flex Biology EOC scores than the state average

### Algebra 1\*

FLVS Flex 77%  
FLVS Full Time 70%  
State 63%

### Biology 1\*

FLVS Flex 77%  
FLVS Full Time 85%  
State 65%

### Civics\*

FLVS Flex 78%  
FLVS Full Time 81%  
State 71%

### Geometry\*

FLVS Flex 63%  
FLVS Full Time 69%  
State 57%

### U.S. History\*

FLVS Flex 79%  
FLVS Full Time 85%  
State 68%

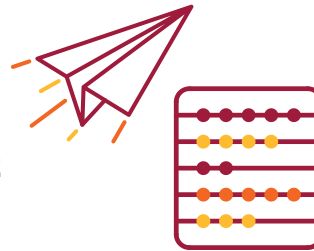
\*Data represents first-time test takers. Percentage of Students Scoring Level 3 or Above (Proficient).

# Efficient operations & value to the state of Florida

Education through FLVS offers significant savings to the State of Florida when compared to the brick-and-mortar public schools.

## FLVS FUNDING PER FTE & EFFICIENCIES

FLVS Flex and FLVS Full Time schools are funded through the FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program), just like the other brick-and-mortar public schools. However, unlike the other public schools that are funded based on student enrollment, FLVS Flex and FLVS Full Time schools are only funded for courses that are successfully completed (and not per enrollment or seat time).



**\$2,744.55** SAVINGS FOR THE STATE  
PER VIRTUAL STUDENT  
2017-18

### FLVS FULL TIME & FLEX SCHOOLS 2017-18

**21,405.69** Public FTE Enrollment

**\$5,248.31** State Cost Per FTE\*

**\$5,248.31** Total State Cost Per FTE

### BRICK-AND-MORTAR SCHOOLS 2017-18

**2,559,007.85** Public FTE Enrollment

**\$6,962.43** State Cost Per FTE\*\*

**\$1,030.43** K-12 Capital Dollars Per FTE

**\$7,992.86** Total State Cost Per FTE

\*In 2013, the FEFP formula was modified such that while students may earn more than one FTE (Full-time Equivalent) per scholastic year, the providers of the services (school districts, lab schools, and FLVS) are limited to one FTE on a shared basis. FLVS saves the state and additional 12.4% for successful completions due to the effects of the 1.0 FTE sharing formula, resulting in actual funding per 12 successful semester course completions of \$4,599.13.

\*\*Final Calculation of FY 2017-18, Florida Education Finance Program

## student spotlight: Elise Engstrom

Through FLVS Full Time, Elise Engstrom has had the opportunity to travel, go on field trips, visit colleges, and continue dancing. The 12th grader recently appeared in a French documentary to talk about virtual school as an advanced way of learning and show how it has impacted her life.

*"Being in charge of my own schedule...has taught me to be mindful of how I use my time and manage it so that I have enough time to get my work done in each course."*



## Our teachers & support staff

The success of FLVS is only possible because of the passion and dedication of each team member helping every student succeed.

Three team members were selected by committees of their peers for their outstanding service to students, teammates, and their community. Congratulations Debbie Adams, Amanda Tabor, and Margaret Jacquard!



### Debbie Adams

#### 2018 FLVS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Debbie Adams serves as the principal/instructional leader of FLVS Driver Education. She is a member of the Florida chapter of the Safe Teen Driving Coalition, which collaborates with other Florida and national organizations to bring educational opportunities to the community. She founded the Teen Driving Club at FLVS.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as the Principal of the Year at FLVS. I am proud to be part of this amazing educational family that customizes the learning environment so that each student can achieve in a way that works best for them. Witnessing the tremendous talent, innovative ideas and engaging environment only inspires me to want to continue our mission of the Driver Safety Team of saving lives, one student at a time!"

### Amanda Tabor

#### 2018 FLVS SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

Amanda Tabor is the family engagement specialist for FLVS Full Time. She has served an integral part in the foundation and organization of many events for FLVS Full Time middle and high school students.

"Waking up daily and loving what I do has helped make my career with FLVS a success. That success, however, comes from the support of those around me. My team, my mentors and my family all play a large part in how I am able to best serve our students, families and staff."

### Margaret Jacquard

#### 2019 FLVS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Margaret is an FLVS Full Time Comprehensive Science 2 teacher. She transfers her passion for learning to her students and urges them to explore the world around them, to embrace learning, and to work together to overcome obstacles; and she encourages her colleagues to give their students the best of themselves. "As a teacher, I could not be more thankful to have the unique opportunity to serve students from across the state. It is such an honor and privilege to represent the passion and dedication of our incredible faculty as the Florida Virtual School 2019 district Teacher of the Year."



# Stretching Florida tax dollars



## PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING

FLVS is performance-based funded, only receiving funding when a student successfully completes a course, unlike traditional schools that are funded upon seat time.



## OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL EFFICIENCIES

In the 2017-18 school year, every semester course taken with FLVS saved the state of Florida \$143.03, amounting to more than \$58 million in savings for the school year.



## SOLUTIONS FOR CLASS SIZE CHALLENGES

Financial impact occurs when a new student enrolls in a school whose classes are already filled to the maximum. Hiring a new teacher for that one student is costly to the district and can be a disruption.



## OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

Districts can utilize FLVS for courses with low student counts for a particular subject. For example, there may not be enough students interested in taking Advanced Placement Computer Science to warrant hiring a teacher, but schools can offer that opportunity to interested students through FLVS. The FLVS digital learning solutions allow districts to introduce new courses and address challenges such as scheduling conflicts, grade forgiveness, class-size reduction, and more.



## SERVING STUDENTS THROUGH STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

FLVS has the unique ability to participate in choice programs across the state of Florida, allowing all students to have access to high quality digital learning. FLVS serves students enrolled through the Hope Scholarship, the McKay Scholarship Program, Gardiner Scholarships, and Florida Tax Credit Scholarships.



## *student spotlight:* **Aiden & Sylar**

FLVS Flex Elementary students Aiden Cardoza (Grade 2) and Sylar Borden (Grade 1), also known as "Captain A" and "Captain SySy," are aspiring scientists and future filmmakers. Their love of learning leads them to explore and create YouTube videos that showcase their educational adventures.

