



## Virtual Virginia Information Statement

An informational statement about Virtual Virginia (VVa) and the services it provides to Virginia's students, school divisions, and citizens.

**Virtual Virginia** is a program of the Virginia Department of Education that provides **high-quality online courses** for students who would otherwise be unable to take Advanced Placement, elective, and world language courses due to the lack of a highly qualified instructor, too few students for the course to be offered by their home schools, or scheduling conflicts within the school.

Virtual Virginia provides significant cost savings for the taxpayers of Virginia by consolidating and maximizing instructional staff and resources, and by reducing duplication and underutilization of educational services at the local level. At the same time, Virtual Virginia provides all of Virginia's students access to the Advanced Placement and world language courses necessary to compete for admission to the nation's top colleges and universities. Virtual Virginia expands opportunities and provides choice in public education for parents and students.

Virtual Virginia was created by Virginia educators, developed for Virginia students, and is recognized as a leader across the nation in online virtual education. Virtual Virginia was formed to provide access, equity, and flexibility for students in the Commonwealth of Virginia according to its statutory authority (§ 22.1-212.2), and Virtual Virginia enables the Commonwealth to meet its constitutional requirement to provide a uniform and thorough educational system. By creating an online virtual program, the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Education, school administrators, and school boards created a consolidation of 132 school divisions with highly-qualified teachers, online courses, virtual educational and support services, and e-learning experts knowledgeable in online education policy, procedure, and implementation.

For more information, please visit [www.virtualvirginia.org](http://www.virtualvirginia.org).

*“Virtual Virginia has helped my education by providing me the resources to take courses that are not offered at my school. I feel that Virtual Virginia has given me the opportunity to take the same classes that are offered to the rest of the students in the state.”*

Holly J.,  
AP Government and Politics-Comparative, AP Human Geography,  
AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics Student

*“The impact that Virtual Virginia's classes and faculty members made on my son and his college experience is one that can be measured in much more than knowledge gained and credits earned. The program encourages independent learning and thinking, skills that will be needed in college and in the workplace. On a personal level, my son continues to maintain strong ties with Virtual Virginia whose teachers have become a second family to him.”*

Christine Collins,  
Virtual Virginia Parent

*Prepared by Virtual Virginia*



## **Value for Students, School Divisions, and Citizens:**

1. Virtual Virginia meets a critical need for students and school divisions across the Commonwealth of Virginia by providing online courses for 6,000+ enrollments in 2009-2010, with 22,000+ enrollments since its inception in 2005, and helps the state meet the requirements and needs of the students, school divisions, school boards, and the State Board of Education. Enrollment in Virtual Virginia courses has increased at approximately 30% each year, yet the level of funding from the General Assembly has remained constant.
2. Virtual Virginia consolidates instructional resources, providing high-quality, equitable online learning opportunities to Virginia's students and school divisions. Virtual Virginia serves 90 percent of Virginia school divisions in 2009-2010 and has enrollments from more than 250 Virginia middle and high schools.
3. Virtual Virginia provides online courses that would otherwise be cost prohibitive to Virginia schools because of the necessary faculty and instructional resources needed for such courses, especially the college-level Advanced Placement courses and world language offerings.
4. Virtual Virginia presents families with cost savings for college fees, allowing their students to complete Advanced Placement courses in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exams that allow for college credit. Prior to entering college, students who pass the exam may already have completed necessary college coursework, thereby saving the cost of per-credit course fees (over \$1,000,000 in 2009). Virtual Virginia students often enter college with many of their freshman-year requirements met.
5. Virtual Virginia's economic framework benefits Virginia because, as a Virginia entity, we retain dollars within the state for needed educational services while providing virtual courses, jobs, and support for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
6. As a program of the Virginia Department of Education, Virtual Virginia is accountable to the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia school divisions, State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education and ensures quality control through evaluation, monitoring, reporting, and alignment with Virginia standards.
7. State and federal laws require Virginia to provide equal opportunities to participate in education, which Virtual Virginia provides for the Commonwealth of Virginia through its availability in even the most remote school divisions. As a Virginia entity, Virtual Virginia allows the state to meet the requirements of state and federal guidelines.
8. Economic downturn and extensive budget reductions place a strain on school divisions, limiting the divisions' abilities to provide the courses that students need. Virtual Virginia has filled the void by providing students access to these courses. Continued budget reductions will only increase the demand for these educational services.

9. Virginia has invested in human and digital capital through Virtual Virginia with online pedagogic training, technological innovations, and the creation of numerous online courses. The curriculum developed for Virtual Virginia's online courses is available to local districts for use in their local online programs as well.

10. Virtual Virginia's innovative instructional approach has been featured by National Public Radio as well as numerous national print and online publications. Virtual Virginia's active research agenda and participation in state, regional, and national research projects contributes to the body of literature on the efficacy of online learning.

11. Virtual Virginia has met the demands for online assistance and has reduced additional costs by providing online services and Web-conferencing capabilities, resulting in reduced travel expenses and increased productivity for school divisions.

12. Virtual Virginia provides e-learning expertise, virtual educational and support services, and leadership in collaboration with Virginia school teachers and administrators to ensure Virginia students' needs are met. Virtual Virginia has proven successful through virtual course offerings, student achievement, continuous enrollment growth, district adoption, national recognition for innovation and program implementation, provision of access and equity, and cost savings to the school divisions and the Commonwealth of Virginia

**For student perspectives, reports, and research, please visit [www.virtualvirginia.org/results](http://www.virtualvirginia.org/results).**

*"The distance learning program has allowed me to take classes that are not normally taught at my school. It opens a wider range of possibilities and allows me to prepare better for my college goals. Virtual Virginia has also allowed me to become friends with students of all ages across the state. It certainly shows me how different we all are. I am glad I am involved with the program and plan to stay with it."*

Glenna D., Latin I Student

*"Online learning with Virtual Virginia has greatly helped me in school. It not only offers more classes that my high school doesn't, but it also has taught me to be a more independent learner. Next year when I go to college, I believe I will be okay because of the study habits I have learned while taking AP Psychology and Mythology. Thanks Virtual Virginia!"*

Alisha G., AP Psychology and World Mythology Student

*"Virtual Virginia has helped me do things I never thought I could do. Thanks to VVa, I'm excelling in a subject I love with all my heart. With the help of my classmates and loving teacher, I'm really enjoying this year. Thank you Virtual Virginia, for helping me be the best I can."*

Sarah C., Chinese II Student

*"The distance learning program of Virtual Virginia has greatly enhanced my education because it has presented the opportunity to choose from a wider variety of more challenging classes than my school could supply beforehand. Better yet, it is preparing me for the chance to earn college credit."*

Jama R., AP Psychology Student

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