

## 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

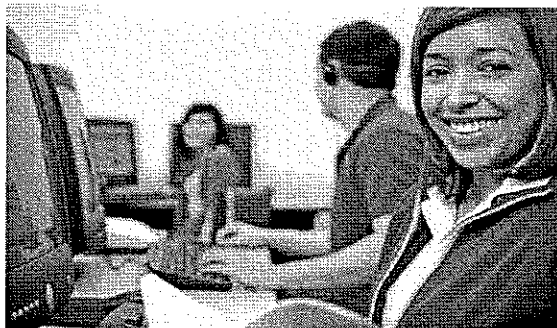
The TxVSN acts as a statewide clearinghouse for courses provided by Texas school districts, open enrollment charter schools, education service centers, and public or private institutions of higher education. Each high school course in the TxVSN catalog is reviewed for 100 % alignment to course TEKS and 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

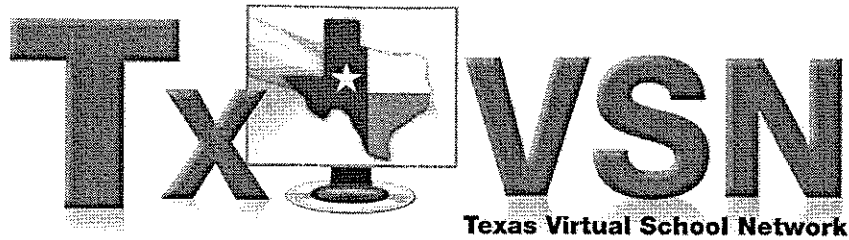
Public school districts and open enrollment charter schools are encouraged to review local needs to determine if TxVSN courses can serve as a supplemental option for students. Districts and open enrollment charter schools participating in TxVSN must complete an annual TxVSN agreement, an online course 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)



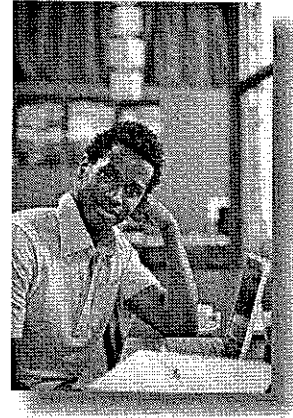
### **TxVSN Student Eligibility**

A student is eligible to enroll in a course provided through the state virtual school network if the student:

- is younger than 21 years of age on September 1 of the school year;
- has not graduated from high school; and
- is otherwise eligible to enroll in a public school in Texas.

If appropriate, a student may enroll full-time in courses from the state virtual school network if the student:

- is a dependent of a member of the United States military;
  - was previously enrolled in high school in this state; and
  - does not reside in this state due to a military deployment or transfer.
- or
- if the student has been placed in substitute care in this state, regardless of whether the student was enrolled in a public school in this state in the preceding school year.

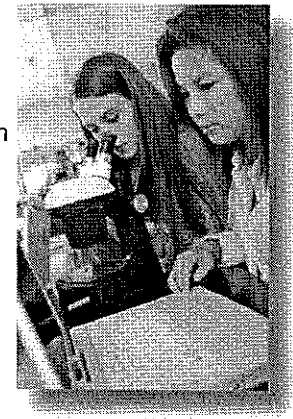


It should be noted that all TxVSN course enrollments are subject to course availability and TxVSN enrollment priorities

### **TxVSN Allotment**

Funding for high school courses taken through the TxVSN may be available if the following conditions and criteria are in place. For each student who successfully completes an electronic course that:

- satisfies a curriculum requirement for graduation adopted under Section 28.025 and is provided through the TxVSN and is part of the student's normal course load, then
  - the school district or open enrollment charter school providing the course is entitled to an allotment of \$400; and,
  - the school district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled is entitled to an allotment of \$80 to reimburse the district or school for associated administrative costs such as providing counseling, registration assistance, and mentoring the student through the successful completion of the online course.
- Normal course load is the number of classes or credit hours generally required to be taken to generate the full amount of funding for a student in average daily attendance.
- Successful completion is defined as a final grade of 70 or above with all required course assignments and assessment completed. Partial course completion is not an option for an allotment funded course!
- A "course" is considered to be a single semester course.
- When the TxVSN allotment is not available, courses will be available for a fee not to exceed \$400 per course seat.



### **Ready to Get Connected to the TxVSN?**

In order to participate in the state virtual school network, each district and open enrollment charter school will:

- Review local distance learning policies and the TxVSN Annual Agreement
- Inform campuses of the district implementation plan
- Apply to participate in the TxVSN