

Texas Virtual School Network - Rider 45



General Description:

The Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN) provides Texas students and schools with equitable access to high-quality, interactive, instructor-led online courses taught by state-certified and appropriately credentialed teachers trained in effective online instruction. The TXVSN has two components: a statewide catalog of supplemental online courses for credit toward high school graduation and a 100% virtual, full-time TXVSN Online Schools (OLS) program that serves eligible public school students in grades 3-12 who reside anywhere in Texas.

The TXVSN online learning initiative was established by the Texas Legislature (SB 1788, 2007) and is administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). A network of eligible course providers offer courses through the TXVSN and are responsible for instruction. Each course is required to be reviewed for alignment to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), national standards for quality online courses, and accessibility standards.

Original statute directed the commissioner of education to contract with a regional education service center (ESC) for daily operation of the TXVSN, including providing, managing, and maintaining all TXVSN operation systems, telecom, and infrastructure; managing course review; and coordinating activities and communications with course providers, catalog receiver districts (students' home district), and other stakeholders. In 2017, Rider 45 reduced the appropriation from \$4M per year to \$400K, removed the requirement to contract with an ESC, and directed the commissioner to use agency resources and information systems to operate the network.

Districts and charter schools are eligible to receive Foundation School Program (FSP) funding based on successful completion of TXVSN courses and programs. Students are not required to be physically present on campus during instruction. In 2013, HB 1926 limited FSP funding to no more than three yearlong courses per student per year, except for full-time TXVSN online schools that were in existence on January 1, 2013.

TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog—In operation since January 2009, the catalog offers high school, Advanced Placement®, and dual credit courses provided by eligible Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, ESCs, institutions of higher education, and private and nonprofit providers. It is a supplemental program that works in partnership with a student's home district. Course cost is set by the TXVSN course provider and may not exceed \$400 per semester course. The TXVSN allotment, which paid catalog course fees, was eliminated after the 2010-11 school year. Scholarships were available fall 2011 through 2013. Receiver districts now pay for up to three yearlong catalog courses taken within a normal course load by public school students.

TXVSN OLS Program—Originally established as the Electronic Course Pilot (eCP), House Bill (HB) 3646 incorporated the eCP under the TXVSN in 2009. To be eligible to enroll full-time in the TXVSN, students must have been enrolled in a Texas public school in the preceding school year with exceptions allowed for students in substitute care and military dependents. There are currently five districts and open-enrollment charter schools participating as providers in the TXVSN OLS free public school option.

Authority: Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 30A, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 70, Subchapter AA General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 45, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Funding: Source-- GAA, Article III, Rider 45, Virtual School Network, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Appropriation	FY 2018	FY 2019
Appropriation	\$400,000	\$400,000
Alternate Source of Funds-nonrecurring	\$500,000	\$0
Use of Funds		
Contract with ESC 10 for transfer of TXVSN Central Operations	\$326,740	\$0
State hardware/software and help desk	\$113,218	\$0
Administration	\$326,545	\$235,237
Contract for programming and technical support	\$68,260	\$230,000
Total	\$834,763	\$465,237
Total Projected Expenditures for the Biennium:		\$1,300,000

CATALOG—Course Enrollments	
2017-2018	7,364*
2016-2017	6,067
2015-2016	5,654
2014-2015	5,710
2013-2014	5,728
2012-2013	11,289
2011-2012	5,605
2010-2011	22,934

Successful Course Completions	
2016-2017	TBD
2015-2016	91.59%
2014-2015	86.41%
2013-2014	78.91%
2012-2013	76.53%

*Source: TXVSN central operations as of 4/2018

ONLINE SCHOOLS--2017-18	
iUniversity Prep , Grapevine-Colleyville ISD	Grades 4-12
Responsive Education Virtual Learning , Texas College Preparatory Academy	Grades 3-8
Texas Connections Academy at Houston , Houston ISD	Grades 3-12
Texas Online Preparatory Schools , Huntsville ISD	Grades 3-12
Texas Virtual Academy , Premier High Schools	Grades 9-12

Student Enrollments	
2017-2018	TBD
2016-2017	13,766
2015-2016	12,206
2014-2015	11,717
2013-2014	10,276
2012-2013	8,441

Source: PEIMS as of 4/2018