



## **Florida Department of Education**

### **Application for Currently**

### **Approved Online Course Provider**

This application form, VSP-04, is to be completed by each Individual or Provider seeking approval to offer Florida Approved Courses which shall be listed in the online catalog pursuant to Section 1003.499, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

To be approved, the application and all documentation must be received by September 30 of each year. Approval requires the Provider to complete all the information requested in all parts of the application and a determination that the Provider meets the compliance requirements set forth in Part 2. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The Florida Department of Education (Department) will provide the Provider with a written decision regarding the approval or denial of the application no later than forty-five (45) days after the deadline.

If the application is denied, the Provider will receive written notification identifying the specific areas of deficiency. The Provider shall have thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the notice of denial to resolve any outstanding issues, and resubmit its application for reconsideration. The Provider will receive a final written notice of approval or denial.

Direct your questions to: [VirtualEducation@fldoe.org](mailto:VirtualEducation@fldoe.org).

Applicant/Provider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Part 1 – Description of Courses**

Grade levels to be served (check all that apply):

K  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12

Target population (check all that apply):

- All Students
- Dropout Prevention/Academic Intervention
- Credit Recovery
- Career and Technical Education
- Juvenile Justice
- English Language Learner (ELL)
- Exceptional Student (ESE) – Specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Academically Talented/Gifted
- Other – Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Florida schools are required to use the Florida Course Code Directory (CCD) when determining course offerings and all official student records must list the course code numbers and titles from the CCD. The CCD is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/>.

*Provide a list of course code numbers and titles of courses to be offered.*

## **Part 2 – Verification of Compliance Requirements**

### **Nonsectarian/Anti-Discrimination**

1. The Provider is nonsectarian and complies with anti-discrimination provisions regarding courses, enrollment policies, employment practices, and operations as specified in ss. 1003.499(3)(a)1. and 1000.05, F.S., respectively.

*Provide direct link to specific nonsectarian and anti-discrimination policies for your programs, admissions, employment practices, and operations posted on your disclosure website identified in Part 1 of the application.*

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

2. The Provider ensures courses meet the National Standards for Quality (NSQ), formerly provided by the International Standards of Quality for Online Courses (iNACOL).
  - Submit a completed review from the National Standards of Quality for Online Courses booklet for one course per subject area at each grade-level band (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12). Evidence to demonstrate the course meets NSQ must be included for each section of state academic standards and benchmarks in the review. File names for NSQ documents must include Florida course codes and titles (e.g., NSQ.1200310.Algebra1). The booklet can be downloaded at [Quality Online Courses | National Standards for Quality Online Learning \(nsgol.org\)](https://www.nsgol.org).

*Provide the review requested above.*

3. The Provider ensures instructional content and service that align with, and measure student attainment of, student mastery of Florida’s currently adopted state academic standards. Courses must address bullets below where applicable.
  - Provide evidence that all academic standards and benchmarks within each course are included in course submissions. Current course descriptions can be found at [www.CPALMS.org](http://www.CPALMS.org).
  - The ELA Expectations (EE) standards must be embedded throughout the instruction of all K-12 general education courses.
  - The Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs) must be embedded throughout instruction of all K-12 general education courses, excluding only the ELA K-12 courses.
  - All submissions must include a spreadsheet (document) that shows when and how the academic standards and benchmarks are taught within the course. Additionally,

the spreadsheet must include how students will show evidence of understanding (formative and summative assessments) for the academic standards and benchmarks.

Example:

Unit of Instruction/ Lesson	State Academic Standards and benchmarks taught/addressed/ embedded	How the unit or lesson will be taught (Link to materials, including activities)	How the unit or lesson will be assessed (Link to materials, including activities)
Unit 1	Benchmark 1 Benchmark 2 Include appropriate MTRs and EEs		

- All submissions must include links to lessons, labs, assessments and activities for review by content experts.
- All submissions must be aligned to s. 1003.42, F.S. and [Rule 6A-1.094124, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#), Required Instruction Planning and Reporting.
- For the course for which the program is submitted, the program must include evidence of alignment to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Level 1 (strong), 2 (moderate), or 3 (promising).
- For the course for which the program is submitted, the program must include evidence of the inclusion of tiered instruction through a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), providing access for all students including English Language Learners (ELLs) and Students with Disabilities (SWD).
- For Career and Technical Education courses, frameworks can be found here: <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/>.
- File names for alignment documents must include the Florida course code and title as specified in the most current Course Code Directory located at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/>.
- For Advanced Placement (AP) courses, in lieu of course alignment documents, please provide evidence the course has been approved by the College Board and is included in the most current AP Ledger. For all other non-AP advanced courses (e.g., IB, AICE) follow the guidelines of the accrediting organization.
- Additional Resources for curriculum alignment can be found at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/virtual-edu/provider-resources/>.
- **Upload all course documents by subject and within subject, by grade level.**

*Provide documentation to support compliance for each course the Provider proposes to offer.*

## **Student Performance and Program Accountability**

4. The Provider possesses prior successful experience offering online courses to elementary, middle, or high school students as demonstrated by quantified student learning gains or student growth in each subject area and grade level provided for consideration.

*Provide quantified learning gains or student growth in each subject area and grade level, as follows:*

- At least two years of cohort data from a state-administered summative assessment approved to meet federal (e.g., ESSA) accountability requirements;

For course subjects not addressed by state assessments:

- At least two years of cohort data from a nationally standardized summative achievement test; or

At minimum, Provider must provide data from either bullet above in language arts/reading and mathematics. The following evidence of learning gains must be submitted for all other subject areas and grade levels:

- At least two years of cohort data from teacher developed End-of-Course assessments or semester examinations; or
- At least two years of cohort data from pre- and post-assessments delivered for a course or program, which assessment is not covered under another category.

Cohort data shall include: The number of students enrolled, the number of students tested, the percentage of students tested, and performance results over the cohort period specified in the categories above. Student performance data are to be aggregated by subject area and grade level. The cohort period shall comprise the most recent data available. The cohort shall include all students in the subject area and grade level under review. Any definitions or materials needed to comprehend the assessment results must be provided.

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Approved Online Course Provider  
Application to Add Courses**

**Assurances**

1. The Provider will provide each course covered by the application in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, statutes and regulations.
2. The Provider will only hire Florida-certified instructional personnel under Chapter 1012, F.S., or adjunct educators certified under s. 1012.57, F.S.
3. The Provider will ensure all employees and contracted personnel will undergo background screening as required by s. 1012.32, F.S., using state and national criminal history records and the Provider will provide a list of employees to each school district contracting with the applicant for verification of compliance.
4. All curriculum and course content is aligned with Florida's currently adopted state academic standards under s. 1003.41, F.S.
5. All of the Provider's Advanced Placement courses have been approved by the College Board's AP Course Audit and are included in the current AP Ledger and Florida's Course Code Directory (State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.). All of the Provider's other accelerated course offerings have been validated by the appropriate program organization.
6. The Provider retains responsibility for the quality and content of courses it offers, including courses revised after time of application whether developed by Provider or acquired via third-party contractual agreements, partnerships or other agreements related to the content or delivery of online courses.
7. The Provider web systems meet conformance level "A" of the [World Wide Web Consortium's Web Accessibility Initiative \(WAI\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0](#), pursuant to the requirements of NSQ.
8. The Provider will adhere to requirements for student participation in state assessment tests as specified in s. 1003.499(3)(b), F.S. The Provider assures that non-state level end-of-course examinations cover Florida course standards and benchmarks.

