A Texas Education Agency Update on The Texas Virtual School Network

Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness
September 2018
Texas Virtual School Network

“Virtual schooling is the future of education...it is the mechanism to ensure true educational equity and adequacy for all our school children. This medium transcends poor and rich districts, geographic locations, and teacher quality issues.”
Texas Virtual School Network: A Brief Overview

The state-led, state-supported online learning initiative for Texas schools and students
Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN)

*The TXVSN provides Texas schools and students with equitable access to quality online courses and instructors*

- Created by the Texas Legislature
- Administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) under the leadership of the commissioner of education
- Districts are eligible to earn state funding, regardless of where the student is located during instruction
TXVSN

The TXVSN includes two components: a full-time online school option and a supplemental course catalog

• TXVSN Online Schools (OLS) Program
  – Students enroll in a full-time TXVSN online school
  • iUniversity Prep (Grapevine-Colleyville ISD)
  • Texas Virtual Academy at Hallsville (Hallsville ISD)
  • Texas Connections Academy at Houston (Houston ISD)
  • Texas College Preparatory Schools (Huntsville ISD)
  • Texas Virtual Academy (Premier High Schools)
  • Responsive Education Virtual Learning (Texas College Preparatory Academies)
  – 100% virtual program
  – Grades 3-12

• TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog
  – Students participate through their independent school district (ISD) or open-enrollment charter school
  – High school, Advanced Placement (AP), and dual credit courses
  – Catalog course cost paid by district or, in some specific situations, student/parent
  – www.txvsn.org
TXVSN Benefits

Equitable access

- high-quality online high school courses that align with TEKS and national standards;
- dual credit, and AP courses for high school graduation;
- Texas-certified teachers; and
- instructors trained in effective online instruction.

*When planning to meet your students’ needs, build TXVSN into the plan!*
Quality Online Courses

- Approved by the TEA
- Courses must align with
  - Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS);
  - International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) *National Standards for Quality Online Courses*;
  - and
  - federal law and rule for students with disabilities and TXVSN accessibility requirements
- Instructor–led with extensive interaction between instructor and student and among students
- Equivalent in instructional rigor and scope to course provided in a traditional classroom setting
The TXVSN is an important strategy for providing educational continuity and flexibility, meeting the individual needs of your students, and helping students stay on grade level and meet graduation requirements!
Texas Virtual School Network: Statewide Course Catalog
TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog

- Offers supplemental courses for high school graduation
- Serves students ready to take high school-level courses
- Participation through school districts and open-enrollment charter schools across the state
- Foundation School Program (FSP) funded based on successful course completion
A student is eligible to enroll in a course provided through the TXVSN only if on September 1 of the school year, the student:

- is younger than 21 years of age; or
- is younger than 26 years of age and entitled to the benefits of the FSP under §42.003;
- has not graduated from high school; and
- is otherwise eligible to enroll in a public school in the state.
TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog Model

TXVSN Course Providers:
Eligible Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools; education service centers; higher education institutions; private or non-profit entities; corporations
Have Texas-certified online teachers and approved courses

TXVSN Receiver Districts:
All Texas districts and open-enrollment charter schools!
Have students with academic needs who are ready for high school-level course
Grant credit for the course delivered by TXVSN course providers
TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog

- Works in partnership with local school; student remains enrolled in local district or charter school
- TXVSN online teacher provides instruction and serves as teacher of record
- Local school mentors student, monitors student progress, and awards credit and diploma
TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog Benefits

Opportunity

- expand local course choices
- increase graduation endorsement options
- schedule flexibility
- Credit advancement
- early graduation
- credit recovery
- address teacher shortages
- address career and college readiness
- alternative opportunities for diverse students
- personalized instruction

When planning to meet your students’ needs, build TXVSN into the plan!
TXVSN Statewide Course Catalog

Highly interactive, instructor-led courses taught by Texas-certified teachers trained in best practices in online instruction

90+ Course Titles

College Credit
- 14 AP courses
- 8 dual credit courses

High School
- Foundation and enrichment curriculum courses
- 7 languages other than English (LOTE) courses
- 15 career and technical education (CTE) courses
- 5 technology applications courses, including Computer Science I & II
What do Texas administrators and parents have to say about the TXVSN?

“The Texas Virtual School Network has enabled us to offer courses we would not be able to offer otherwise.”
Superintendent, Celeste ISD

“Online courses even the playing field, allowing students in smaller remote schools the same opportunity as the larger, better equipped progressive metropolitan schools.”
Parent, Kilgore ISD

“With our master schedule constraints, online learning allowed students to take graduation requirement courses that otherwise would not have been available to them.”
Counselor

“We especially like the fact that many of these courses are approved by NCAA.”
Counselor, Round Rock ISD

“We encourage any district interested in a rich learning experience to use TXVSN.”
Administrator, Grady ISD
Funding Sources

- FSP funding for up to three yearlong courses, or the equivalent, per student per year
- Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA)
- State and federal program funds, per rules
- State and federal grant funds, per rules
- Title funds, including Title I, IDEA Part B, per rules
- Local funds
- May be student-paid under certain circumstances, including after first three TXVSN courses taken as part of a normal course load of seven courses, per student per year

*When planning for the upcoming school year, build TXVSN course costs into the budget!*
Local Policy for the TXVSN

TEC, §30A.007
Each school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a written policy that provides students with the opportunity to enroll in electronic courses provided through the state virtual school network. The policy must be consistent with requirements imposed by TEC, §26.0031.
Rights Concerning the TXVSN

TEC, §26.0031

- At the time and in the manner the school informs students and parents about traditional local classroom course offerings, it must also notify them of option to enroll in TXVSN courses
- School may not deny request to enroll in TXVSN course except in specific circumstances allowed under this section
Texas Virtual School Network: Full-Time Online Schools Program
Full-Time TXVSN OLS Program

Students enroll in a free, TEA-accredited full-time TXVSN online school

• iUniversity Prep (Grapevine-Colleyville ISD)
• Texas Virtual Academy at Hallsville (Hallsville ISD)
• Texas Connections Academy at Houston (Houston ISD)
• Texas College Preparatory Schools (Huntsville ISD)
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– 100% virtual program
– Grades 3-12
Student Eligibility for Full-Time Enrollment in TXVSN

- Students in grades 3-12 who reside anywhere in the state, are eligible to attend public school in Texas, and meet the other eligibility requirements of the TXVSN Online Schools (OLS) program may enroll full-time in courses through the TXVSN.

- They will participate in rigorous, interactive online courses that emphasize extensive communication between the Texas-certified teacher and student and among students.
Student Eligibility for Full-Time Enrollment in TXVSN

Eligibility requirements are defined in TEC, §30A.002.

A student is eligible only if the student meets requirements for enrollment in the Texas public education system and

- was enrolled in a public school in this state in the preceding school year; or
- is a dependent of a member of the United States military who has been deployed or transferred to this state and was enrolled in a publicly funded school outside of this state in the preceding school year; or
- 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 year; or
- 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.

Enrolled means student received instruction, not just that student was registered.
The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides online courses to eligible students through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN). The TXVSN is made up of two components—the course catalog and the full-time online schools.

www.txvsn.org
Other Key TXVSN Information

TXVSN State law and rule
- Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 30A
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 70

TEA Student Attendance Accounting Handbook
- TXVSN: Section 12.2
TXVSN Contact Information

Email: txvsncentral@tea.texas.gov

TXVSN Help Desk:
1-866-93TXVSN
1-866-938-9876
Texas Virtual School Network

“TXVSN...it’s the future and it’s here right now.”

Former Principal, Mineral Wells ISD
Accredited Online School Options—Texas
TEA-Accredited Online Programs

Texas Virtual School Network
- https://www.txvsn.org/online-schools
- Free, teacher-led, highly interactive courses, administered by the TEA

Texas Tech University K-12
- http://www.depts.ttu.edu/k12/
- Tuition-based, students of all ages, enrollment open year round

University of Texas at Austin UT High School
- https://highschool.utexas.edu/
- Tuition-based, students of all ages, enrollment open year round
Accredited Non-Public Schools in Texas

Texas Private School Accreditation Commission

www.tepsac.org

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