

6A-6.0981 Provider Approval and Renewal for Virtual Instruction Program.

(1) Purpose. Section 1002.45, F.S., requires each school district to provide students the option to participate in a virtual instruction program. The Department of Education will provide school districts and virtual charter schools annually with a list of providers approved to offer full and part-time virtual instruction programs under this section of law.

(2)(a) Application Form. Form VSP-02, Virtual Instruction Program Application for Provider Approval (<https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09624>), for becoming an approved provider for the Virtual Instruction Program, will be used for those virtual education providers applying for approved status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-02 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective September 2021 ~~August 2018~~.

(b) Application Form. Form VSP-02R, Virtual Instruction Program Application for Provider Renewal (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-09625>), for renewing an approved provider for the Virtual Instruction Program, will be used for those virtual education providers applying for renewal status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-02R is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective September 2021 ~~August 2018~~. Copies of forms VSP-02 and VSP-02R may be obtained by contacting the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(3) Applications. The applications to become an approved provider or for renewal will be available at ~~<https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/virtual-edu/provider-resources/http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/virtual-edu/approved-provider-resources/program-providers.html>~~ beginning September 1 of each year for the following school year and must be accessed and submitted electronically. The deadline for filing the application is September 30.

(a) No change.

1. Initial Approval. For applicants seeking initial approval, prior successful experience shall be demonstrated as follows: Learning gains shall show the degree of student learning growth occurring from one school year to the next as required by state board rule for purpose of calculating school grades, in accordance with Section 1008.34, F.S. ~~Upon an applicant's request~~ The Department of Education shall conditionally approve a provider who is otherwise qualified but without sufficient prior, successful experience offering online courses, to offer courses measured by

statewide assessments under Section 1008.22, F.S., with a learning gains component, end-of-course assessments, or Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. Conditional approval shall be valid for one (1) school year only and, based on the provider's subsequent experience in offering the courses under this paragraph, the Department shall determine whether to grant final approval to offer a virtual instruction program under the criteria for successful experience as outlined in this paragraph.

2. Renewal. Renewal applicants with a school grade in the most recent grades release by the Department of Education meet the prior successful experience criteria unless they are disqualified pursuant to Section 1002.45(8), F.S. Pursuant to Section 1002.45(8), F. S., a provider who was disqualified under this section shall be ineligible for approval for one (1) year. Thereafter, the provider must submit an application for initial approval. Renewal applicants without a school grade must meet the criteria for prior successful experience required for initial approval.

(b) In accordance with Section 1002.45(2)(a)6., F.S., the applicant must be accredited by at least one of the following K-12 regional accrediting agencies, their successors or assigns: Cognia (AdvancED), Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary School and Secondary Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Accreditation Commission, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

(c) Pursuant to Section 1002.45(2)(a)7., F.S., the curriculum plan must include evidence:

1. That the applicant's online program and courses meet the standards of the International Association of K12 Online Learning;

2. That the applicant's online program and courses meet the standards of the National Standards for Quality Online Programs and Courses, formerly provided by the International Standards of Quality for Online Courses;

~~3. 2-~~That its courses and services are aligned to the most recently adopted Florida standards and measure student attainment of those standards, including:

a. through c. No change.

~~4. 3-~~ That mechanisms are in place to determine and ensure students have satisfied promotion and graduation requirements. Mechanisms should include:

a. through e. No change.

(d) No change.

(4) The Department of Education will review each complete application and provide the applicant with a written

decision regarding the approval or denial of the application no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the deadline. Incomplete applications, including applications lacking required supporting documentation will not be reviewed. Approved providers will be posted to the website: <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/virtual-edu/provider-resources/approved-providers/www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp>.

(5) through (6) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(1), (2)(n), 1002.45(11) FS. Law Implemented 1002.45 FS. History—New 11-26-08, Amended 10-21-09, 3-20-11, 12-20-11, 1-23-13, 1-1-14, 7-28-15, 10-30-16, 8-21-18.