



For Immediate Release

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Florida Governor Signs Bill Removing Virtual Education Eligibility Restrictions

Orlando, FL (June 20, 2017) – On June 15, 2017, Governor Rick Scott signed HB 7069 which included language to remove the eligibility requirements in f.s. 1002.455 currently impacting Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Flex students in grades 2-5. This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

Previously, students in grades 2-5 wishing to enroll part time in FLVS courses had to meet eligibility requirements that were outlined in the statute. The 2017 Florida legislative session included several bills, heavily supported in both the Senate and the House, that removed eligibility requirements. Ultimately, the language was put into HB 7069, and now all children can enroll in FLVS Flex.

The most problematic requirement was that students in grades 2-5 had to have been enrolled in a Florida public school the year prior to take part time courses at FLVS. These restrictions hindered homeschool students, private school students, and students who were new to the state. In the 2016-17 school year alone, 933 students were not allowed to continue their FLVS courses due to the restrictions. It was anticipated that an additional 1,000 students would not be able to continue their enrollment with FLVS Flex for the 2017-18 school year had the eligibility requirements remained intact.

“FLVS Flex Elementary is thrilled that we can continue taking good care of our families and children. We are very thankful to our legislators, President Negron, Speaker Corcoran, and Governor Scott,” said Elementary Instruction principal, Sarah Sprinkel. “We are honored to teach children and believe this option is appropriate and perfect for many families.”

FLVS Flex program serves students from all walks of life, including students needing flexibility to accommodate personal barriers such as illnesses, hospital stays, involvement in athletics and other activities, or even travelling abroad.

“We know how much this means to many parents and children, and my son Branden and I are so grateful to be a part of such a positive and powerful change that effects so many who need the FLVS Flex program,” said parent Sherrie Ojeda. “For those families who struggle to balance their children's medical needs and educational needs, this is a huge win.”

In addition, FLVS offers award-winning courses to which every student should have access. To see these available courses, please visit flvs.net/flex/courses.

About Florida Virtual School

[Florida Virtual School](http://flvs.net)® (FLVS®) is a fully accredited, statewide public school district offering more than 150 courses to Kindergarten-12 students. Its certified teachers use a variety of personalized instructional programs to create individualized educational plans for every student. Since 1997, FLVS students have successfully completed more than 3.1 million semester enrollments. FLVS also provides its courseware and expertise to

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online and blended learning programs across the nation. Services include content licensing, FLVS Global School, District Virtual Schools, digital learning labs, and professional development. As a not-for-profit, FLVS reinvests revenue into the development of new educational technologies and the creation of the highest-quality courses, benefiting students in Florida and beyond. To learn more, visit www.flvs.net.

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