

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
Office of Leadership and Professional Development (OLPD)
Summary of Policy for Mississippi Virtual Public School (MVPS)

The Mississippi Virtual Public School Program is a free web-based educational program offered by the Mississippi Department of Education to provide Mississippi students with access to a wider range of course work. Technology will be used to deliver instruction to students via the Internet in a virtual or remote setting.

The public school district is responsible for the academic progress of its students, including but not limited to, enrollment, awarding of credit and monitoring progress.

The State Board of Education shall have approval authority for **all** coursework and policy of the Mississippi Virtual Public School and any other state virtual school.

Scope:

- a) Meet the educational needs of children in the State of Mississippi;
- b) Close the achievement gap between high-performing including the achievement gap among at-risk students;
- c) Provide a broader range of educational options to parents by utilizing existing resources, along with technology with a goal of improving student achievement and reducing the drop-out rate in Mississippi; and
- d) Assist local school districts who currently lack the capacity to provide choices to students especially students whose schools are low performing.

Guiding Principles:

Administered by Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)

- Credits for course work will be granted by local educational agency (LEA)
- All decisions will be guided by focusing on what is best for the students
- The MVPS academic calendar will be coordinated with the districts' calendar
- Most online courses will be taught by Mississippi teachers licensed in the subject area and proficient in web-based course delivery
- Development or selection of courses will involve teacher input and will be aligned to National and Mississippi Frameworks standards
- The quality and assessment for online courses must equal or exceed that for traditional courses
- A needs assessment process will determine the sequence of course development for MVS