

## *Program Summary*



As a program of the Virginia Department of Education, Virtual Virginia (VVA) offers online Advanced Placement (AP®), world language, core academic, and elective courses to students across the Commonwealth and nation. Virtual Virginia is committed to providing high-quality, rigorous course content with the flexibility to meet schools' and students' varied schedules. The Virtual Virginia program strives to provide instruction that meets the individual needs of students.

Virtual Virginia works with Virginia public schools to provide students access to courses that are unavailable to them due to low enrollments, scheduling conflicts, and the lack of highly qualified teachers. Virtual Virginia ensures the availability of high quality and rigorous Advanced Placement and World Language courses to underserved populations and provides equity of access to educational options throughout Virginia.

Courses are delivered via the Internet through a secure, Web-based environment; students may participate at school or at home. The courses promote a high level of interaction among students and teachers. The content is media-rich, interactive, and engaging and is designed to address different learning styles. The courses contain readings, discussion forums, written assignments, media, student presentations and projects, case studies, simulations, virtual lab assignments, models, interactive assignments, and opportunities for collaboration.

Virtual Virginia courses meet and exceed Virginia's Standards of Learning. All Advanced Placement courses are audited and approved by the College Board as well as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The course completion rate for 2013-2014 was 95.4 percent.

Virtual Virginia teachers are highly qualified and hold Virginia licenses in their content area. Although teachers' loads vary by course, the average student to full-time teacher ratio is 1:109.

Public school students enroll in Virtual Virginia courses via their local school counselors. Schools must provide an adult mentor, the required textbooks, and technology resources. The local schools award letter grades and graduation credit for the courses taken.

Advanced Placement courses are tuition free for students participating in the Early College Scholars (ECS) program; non-ECS students pay a reduced tuition of \$375 times the Local Composite Index (LCI). Standard courses are tuition free for public school students. Tuition is charged for nonpublic and out-of-state students; in addition, a \$75 drop fee is assessed if students withdraw after the 21<sup>st</sup> day of class.

Virtual Virginia has served over 40,000 students since its inception in 2002. Currently there are 22,750 half-credit enrollments, including more than 7,000 students enrolled in the Economics and Personal Finance course. Two hundred and fifty-nine students remain on waiting lists for spring courses, including AP Psychology, Economics and Personal Finance, and Introduction to Game Design and Development. It is anticipated that most students will be served this semester.