

Frequently Asked Questions

General

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Is Volusia Online Learning the same as Distant Learning?</p> | <p>No. Distance learning was an emergency plan for an emergency situation. Volusia Online Learning offers true courses for credit and promotion in a virtual setting.</p> |
| <p>Is Volusia Online Learning available to everyone?</p> | <p>Volusia Online Learning is a public-school serving grades K-12. If you live in Volusia County and meet the Volusia Public School Requirements and you believe online learning is for you then we encourage you to apply for enrollment. Students in Private / Parochial Schools may also take additional classes with Volusia Online Learning at no cost.</p> |
| <p>What is the difference between Volusia Online Learning and Volusia brick-and-mortar schools?</p> | <p>There is no difference in Curriculum or in Teacher Certification. There is significant difference in the flexibility offered to all Volusia Online Learning students in the way they work all courses online.</p> <p>It is not an easier option than traditional schools.</p> <p>All classes are written at grade level and require an average of one to two hours of focused study daily to complete one course within the traditional semester time frame.</p> <p>Our courses engage students in real-life projects, requiring the use of critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to apply the knowledge they have acquired.</p> |
| <p>It was my understanding that you can't do Volusia online until 4th grade, is that correct?</p> | <p>Volusia Online Learning enrollment is open to all students in grades K-12.</p> |
| <p>How does this work with the summer school students?</p> | <p>All students can take a summer course with limited offerings for elementary students. If students take semester 1 of the 2 semester course, they would be required to take the 2nd semester of the course virtually/online.</p> |
| <p>Is there any cost?</p> | <p>None, there are no tuition fees to Volusia County residents.</p> |
| <p>What are your fees for high school?</p> | <p>Vol is a free public school, fees are applied for optional activities (field trips, yearbook, etc.)</p> |
| <p>What is the deadline to sign up for this fall</p> | <p>For Full-time enrollment, July 31st.</p> |
| <p>Does my child have to log in at a specific time?</p> | <p>No. For each online class there is a pace chart that breaks down what work should be done each week. As long as your child sticks to this pace and completes work each week, there is not a specific time or day that they must be online. Some courses have scheduled on-line sessions.</p> |
| <p>What type of attendance is required?</p> | <p>Full-time students are expected to participate in courses daily in order to maintain educational integrity. Students will be considered truant if there is no participation in the online courses on a regular basis without prior approval and will be reported as truant to the proper authorities.</p> |
| <p>Can my child work on weekends?</p> | <p>Yes. One of the benefits of taking online classes is that students can work during non-traditional school hours such as evenings and weekends.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Can my child finish the class early? | Yes. One of the benefits of taking online classes is that students can work during non-traditional school hours such as evenings and weekends. |
| When she finishes her class, can she enroll to another course? | Yes |
| Can a student audit a class (not for a grade)? | A student can enroll and participate in a course for up to 14 days without earning a grade. |
| Do students have the option to work ahead and possibly finish the years schoolwork early? Then start the following year when they want? | Yes, if appropriate for the student. |
| For an elementary or middle school student, can they move fast and go on to the next year? | Yes, if appropriate. |
| How much time is required by the parent? | The parent as the Learning Coach should put in as much time as the student needs to monitor their progress to promotion or graduation. |
| Will students receive textbooks and/or other supplies? | They can receive supplemental materials, if needed. |
| Does online learning require the same type of school supplies as brick and mortar? | This is based on the course. |
| How do students set up a schedule with VOL? | For full-time, use the full-time application at www.volusiaonlinelearning.com . For part-time, use the part-time application at www.volusiaonlinelearning.com in collaboration with the zone school's counselor to pick the courses and the schedule that best fits the student and school. |
| What does the daily schedule look like? | It is designed by the student and family. |
| What do we do if we have technical issues? | If technical issues arise your child's online teacher(s) will be there for initial support. You will also have access to a technical support team if the issue extends beyond the teacher's ability. |
| With the Virtual Learning will there be a teacher that they check in with and receive their assignments | Yes, each course is assigned to a highly qualified, certified teacher. |
| Distance learning didn't offer a lot of teacher instruction...will teachers be on a certain class time that they're instructing? | Teachers will conduct scheduled live lessons. |
| How many 'live' online sessions are there in the courses? | It depends upon the course. |
| Is VOL completely asynchronous or will there be synchronized learning as well? | VOL has a blend of synchronous (live lessons) and asynchronous learning (not live lessons) |
| Are the face-to-face meetings required or optional? | For Full-time virtual there are required face to face meetings as well as optional ones, Part-time virtual face to face meetings are only required if a student if not progressing through the course. |
| How do we find out which courses have more or less live online sessions? | You would find out when the courses begin. Every course has a live session at minimum once a quarter. |
| Is it possible to find out who the teacher is before registering for a class? | Yes, but closer to the beginning of the school year, we try to honor all requests but number of enrollments determines what we can do. |
| Do you offer honors or IB courses? | We offer Honors and limited Advanced Placement courses at this time. |
| Are all courses 4.0 points? | We follow the district's Grade Point Averaging scale. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Can I use a Volusia Online Learning Diploma to enroll into College, join the military or gain employment? | Yes. The Volusia Online Learning is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools . The Volusia Online Learning offers a standard high school diploma that meets state and school board requirements. |
| If my daughter graduated from online school, what would her diploma say? is there a graduation? | If your daughter graduated in 2021, her diploma would say her zone school. |
| Do we need to disenroll from the zoned school to enroll in Volusia online? | No |
| So, the following year would we need to reregister for the public school...if he is withdrawn then? | Yes |
| If we are on the fence, should we go ahead and apply or wait until we are sure virtual school is it for us? | I would apply now so that the district can prepare to provide support where needed. |
| What if my child starts an online class and discovers that this learning environment is not right for he or she? | This is ok. The online environment of learning may not be for everyone . A student can drop an online class within the first 14 days without any negative consequences. The student, parents/guardians, and principal work together to make this decision. Ultimately, we want to make sure that students are placed in a learning environment that is right for them. |
| If any elementary student tries VOL and finds it to not be a good fit, would there be an issue transferring back to brick and mortar mid-year? | No, there is not an issue transferring back to the zone school mid-year. The natural transition times, quarter or semesters, are best but we will do whatever is best for the student. |
| What are some challenges I might expect with my child taking online classes? | When taking online classes, students (with the help of their parents/guardians) must make a greater effort to stay organized, create a schedule and manage their time, and work towards staying on pace with work. As a parent/guardian you will need to make sure you are periodically going online to check the progress of your child. |
| What are some positive changes that I might see in my child as a result of he or she taking online classes? | Students can develop skills related to organization and time management, develop a sense of responsibility, as well as take charge of their own learning. |
| One thing I saw suffer some during distance learning was writing by hand for my 2nd and 3rd grader. Will there be requirements for handwritten assignments? | Yes, writing is a foundational and developmental skill that is required and therefore offered virtually. |
| Are the classes and assignments better organized than what we experienced when the physical schools started online learning? | Yes, this is true virtual learning. |
| Will we be using ALL the different platforms or just one? | This depends upon the courses that the student needs to take. |
| Our family will be out of town for a period of time. Can students work on their online classes out of state? | Yes. As long as a student has a computer and internet access, they can continue to work on their online classes wherever they are. The out of town period cannot exceed 10 school days. |
| For sciences that usually have labs, how are these organized (or does that component does not exist)? | Labs can be conducted in person, virtually |

| | |
|--|--|
| Would an elementary student have one teacher or multiple? Are there resource courses as well? Music for example? | Yes, an elementary student would have one teacher with others possibly for special area/elective courses. |
| Can a student go into the school for certain classes that are easier to social distance, like PE? | Yes, in coordination with the zone school. |
| I am an incoming freshman in high school I am wondering if my credits will transfer from my old middle school if I start a course this summer before I actually start this year? | Yes |
| Can elementary take ASL? American sign language? (5th) grade | We do not currently have an elementary ASL course but there are other resources like lifeprint.com and Signing Time (YouTube). |
| My son started his 7th grade ELA will this count towards his ELA course when he starts back to school in August. | Yes |

Volusia Online Learning and FLVS

| | |
|---|--|
| What makes VOL different from FLVS? | Local VCS teachers, Multiple platforms |
| Do you know if FLVS allows students to enroll now and start classes for the next school year since VOL does not allow students to start until August? | Students can choose Volusia Online Learning now and start now – this is new this summer. |
| Which have you found to be easier, as far as learning, VOL or FLVS? | Both appeal to different types of learner. |
| Are all FLVS classes available through VOL? | Most FLVS classes are available through VOL. If courses are not offered with FLVS, we can use other vendors. |

IEP

| | |
|--|---|
| Is this an option for a soon to be 4th grader on an IEP? | Yes! |
| Will my child with an IEP be able to continue receiving speech and language support if enrolled part or full time in virtual school? | Yes |
| My son is special needs (asd) he has an iep with Galaxy middle and we want to do full time vol, how will his IEP be transferred? | We will coordinate a meeting to make sure the IEP is updated. |
| What level of support is available to students with an IEP? | This depends upon the supports that are outlined in the IEP. |

Transferring to and from VOL Questions

| | |
|---|---|
| Can we send the student back to brick & mortar school if COVID passes, or if this style does not work for my student? | Yes, but it is better to commit to one semester at the minimum as this makes the transition easier. |
| My son is registered for FLVS right now. Can we register with VOL too or how would I switch? | Yes, a student can be switched from FLVS to VOL. 😊 |

| | |
|--|--|
| How easy is it to go from private school to VOL? | Easy. A review of transcripts will be needed so that an educational plan can be created. |
|--|--|

School Activities Questions

| | |
|--|--|
| Could an elementary student join a club at the zoned school? | Yes, in coordination with the zone school. |
| Are there opportunities for the students to have interactions with other students that are also distance learning? | Yes! We have field trips, online “Hot Topic” sessions, whole group live lessons, small group tutoring, and more. |
| Will full time VOL students be able to attend events, field trips, etc. at their zoned school? | Yes! With proper and timely collaboration students can participate in activities with their zoned brick and mortar school. |
| Any idea if there are field trips for the high school Marine Science class? | Yes |

Testing Questions

| | |
|--|--|
| Are VOL students still required to go on campus for state testing? | This depends upon the student, type of virtual student, and test. |
| Do Volusia County Online students complete the FSAs and if so, what preparation do you provide students? | Yes. Courses directly associated with an FSA or EOC contain content aligned to the standards, teachers offer review sessions and additional resources for students, if needed. |
| Do you have to do an EOC if you are a registered homeschool student? | Yes, if the student would want to return to an accredited school to receive a diploma. Home Education students must complete the last 7 courses at an accredited school and VOL qualifies as one of these. |
| How about FSA test, are the kids require to take.? | Yes |

Homeschool Questions

| | |
|--|--|
| When can homeschool students start enrolling? | Anytime. |
| Homeschool students don't have alpha code, what do we do? | Home Education students should formally enroll with the district’s home education office and then will be issued an alpha code. |
| If we are already a homeschool family through the district, can we still pick and choose what courses we want to take? Do you have a flex program? | Yes, we call it Part-time virtual as a home education student. |
| I homeschool my kids, but am wondering if it is possible to just register a child in math and ELA and continue doing the other courses on our own? | Yes |
| Do you have to do an EOC if you are a registered homeschool student? | Yes, if the student would want to return to an accredited school to receive a diploma. Home Education students must complete the last 7 courses at an accredited school and VOL qualifies as one of these. |
| What is the difference between home school & Volusia online? | Home Education (school) – the parent is responsible for the education of the student. Volusia Online is a public school in Volusia County. |

Gifted Questions

| | |
|---|---|
| How are gifted students served with the VOL course? | All students are serviced based on their individual needs and all accommodations required are followed. |
| Could you be more specific about what content is geared towards elementary gifted students? | Core content from virtual provider with Renzulli and teacher supplemented resources. |
| Is it a pretty seamless process for a gifted student who had been in VOL to go back to brick and mortar later, if they wanted? Or is that based more on class availability? | Yes, a student can transition back to brick and mortar without losing their placement at the zone school. |

ELL questions

| | |
|---|--|
| How are students that are English Speakers of Other Languages accommodated? | VOL meets the needs of all students just as the brick and mortar does. |
| Will ELL students receive their accommodations? | Yes |