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## Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools

January 20, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Sarasota County Schools offers K-12 students access to instruction through online learning. There are several virtual education options for part time or full time learning experiences. Listed below are several virtual instruction options available to students residing in Sarasota County.

### **Sarasota Virtual School Full Time (SVS FT) – Public K-12 Virtual Instruction Option**

SVS FT is an interactive virtual learning environment in which the student and teacher are separated by time, space or both. In compliance with state statute 1002.45, SVS FT is a free public online school that serves K-12 students residing in Sarasota County. Students attending SVS FT must follow all Sarasota County School Board policies, the District School Calendar, as well as all rules, guidelines and procedures that are specified in the Sarasota County Student and Family Handbook and the Student Progression Plan based on the student's assigned school level (elementary, middle, and high). **Students must take all required state and district assessments on the dates, times and at the location designated by SVS FT.**

Sarasota County Schools contracts with four outside vendors, K12 Florida, Inc., Connections Learning, Florida Virtual School, and Edgenuity to provide SVS FT students with instructors who are highly qualified, certified teachers, as defined by the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, and offers curricula and content which address State Standards. K12 Florida, Inc. provides online learning services for students in grades K-12, Edgenuity serves students in grades 6-12 and Florida Virtual School (FLVS) serves students in grades 9-12. In accordance with state statute, SVS FT students may access lessons, assignments and assessments through the Internet, and teachers communicate with students and parents electronically. SVS FT meets all Florida public school standards and requirements and receives a school grade along with all Florida schools. SVS FT students completing graduation requirements earn a standard high school diploma.

SVS FT is accessible to all students. Interested parents are required to have a face-to-face interview with the SVS FT academic advisor and their student(s) prior to enrolling. Parents of students in special programs are advised to carefully consider the appropriateness of a virtual instruction option. To determine the appropriateness of assignment to a full time virtual learning environment for a student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a 504 Accommodation Plan or an English Language Learner Plan (ELL), a meeting shall occur with the student, parent/guardian, the SVS FT administrator and the academic advisor and appropriate staff members from the currently enrolled district school prior to enrolling.

The annual 90-day open enrollment period ends 30 days before the first day of each school year, and will be available to students seeking to enroll in SVS FT. The open enrollment period will be announced by the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools in February using correspondence, media releases, the district website and other appropriate ways to ensure parents receive timely written notification. SVS FT students may be provided with a computer and/or Internet connection if they qualify for the Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program.

All K-5 students are eligible to attend SVS FT. Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to attend if they meet one of the following criteria: (1) attended a Florida public school the prior school year and were enrolled and reported by the school district for funding during October and February; (2) are dependents of a member of the U.S. military transferred to Florida within the last year following a permanent change of station order; (3) enrolled during the prior school year in a school district virtual instruction program or a full-time FLVS program; (4) has a sibling who is currently enrolled in a district virtual program and who was also enrolled in that program at the end of the prior school year. According to

Florida Statute (1002.455), students in grades 6-12 who were home-schooled during the previous school year are not eligible to enroll in SVS FT.

For more information regarding full or part time virtual instruction, please contact the Office of School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools at (941) 927-9000, ext. 32289 or visit [www.sarasotacountyschools.net](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net).

### Sarasota Virtual Academy Part Time (SVA PT) – Public Virtual Option

SVA PT is a free online program that serves students in Sarasota County by offering virtual high school courses that are designed to match each student's individual educational needs. SVA PT serves students who are enrolled full time in a Sarasota County secondary school, which includes traditional and charter schools. SVA PT is a FLVS franchise which means that SVA PT students use the same content and curriculum as FLVS **and** have a local Sarasota County Schools' instructor who is a highly qualified and certified teacher. *Having access to a local teacher offers many advantages.* In addition to providing face-to-face assistance to students, these professionals have strong working relationships with staff, faculty and administrators at the district school where the student is enrolled full time. They also have knowledge regarding Sarasota County School Board policies, procedures and guidelines which helps to support all SVA PT students' academic success during their virtual learning experience.

SVA PT is a year round program, and offers continuous rolling enrollment throughout the school year and into the summer. Students have 24/7 access to their courses from any Internet-connected computer. The online instructor is available Monday through Friday with office hours that vary from course to course.

To learn more about this virtual instruction option, parents should speak with their child's guidance counselor or contact the SVA PT Coordinator at (941) 924-1365 Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. You may also visit the SVA PT web site at [www.qosva.com](http://www.qosva.com).

### Florida Virtual School Full Time (FLVS FT) Public School

FLVS FT is an online public school district with an accredited school that serves students in grades K through 12. This online school provides eligible students residing in Florida with a free public education, highly qualified Florida-certified teachers, state approved curricula and content, text books and a wide array of online resources. FLVS FT combines the structure of the traditional school year with the flexibility of online learning. As a fully-online public school, **FLVS FT is considered the student's primary school of record** and offers its students a 180-day comprehensive program that requires full time attendance and a full schedule of courses per semester. According to F.S. 1006.15, "Florida Virtual School Full Time students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the public school to which the student would be assigned." **FLVS FT students are required to participate in state level assessments.** Students who meet FLVS graduation requirements are eligible to receive a standard diploma from FLVS FT Public School.

Parents interested in this virtual option may contact FLVS FT directly at (800) 382-6010 to get additional information regarding the program and enrolling their student. You may also visit the FLVS web site at <http://www.flvs.net>.

### Florida Virtual School Part Time Program (FLVS PT)

FLVS offers flexible and free online elementary, middle and high school courses students can take while attending a traditional school. A variety of K -12 courses are available 24/7, allowing students to finish a course at their own pace. Students are able to study at home when they have extra time, at school during a free period, or while traveling over summer break. To learn more about FLVS PT course offerings, you may visit [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net) or call (800) 374-1430.

There are numerous opportunities for students to access a virtual learning environment in Sarasota County Schools. All interested parents are encouraged to speak directly with your child's school principal and/or counselor to determine the most appropriate virtual option for your child.

Sincerely,



Katrina K. Ward, Ed.S.  
Supervisor, School Choice, Virtual School and Charter Schools