

# Kansas

## ONLINE & BLENDED LEARNING STATE SNAPSHOT

There are **13 fully online schools**, 67 district/building programs, and 8 service center programs recognized by the state.

In SY 2012-13 the state counted **4,689 fully online K-12 students**, and an additional 1,220 taking supplemental and/or blended options.

### Availability of online learning options

SUPPLEMENTAL			FULLY ONLINE		
K-5 (ES)	6-8 (MS)	9-12 (HS)	K-5 (ES)	6-8 (MS)	9-12 (HS)
SOME	MOST	MOST	MOST	MOST	MOST

Availability of info:

- Great**
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Minimal

### Does this state have...

	Y	N
Any <b>FULLY BLENDED</b> schools?		●
Student choice at the school level?	●	
Student choice at the course level?		●
SVS or another publicly funded option for private / homeschool students?		●
Prior public school attendance requirement for online schools?		●
Online caps by class, school, district, or statewide?		●
PD requirement for online teachers?	●	
State approval process required for online providers?	●	
State approval process required for online courses?		●
Online learning requirement for students?		●
End-of-course exams?		●

- Students may enroll in 1 of 44 programs that accept out-of-district students.
- Multiple providers, but funding not guaranteed.
- Districts must provide adequate training to teachers who teach in virtual schools, and confirm via annual report to state board.
- KSDE approves virtual schools/ programs.

**Kansas has 88 full-time virtual schools and programs approved by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE): 13 full-time virtual schools, 67 district/building programs, and eight service center programs that collectively cover all elementary through high school grade levels.**<sup>145</sup> All schools and programs are approved for full-time enrollment.

In SY 2012-13 the state counted 4,689 fully online K-12 students and an additional 1,220 taking supplemental and/or blended options.<sup>146</sup> Online elementary and middle schools in small, rural communities often serve fewer than 100 students, with some exceptions, e.g.—the Lawrence Virtual School, the largest virtual school in the state.

Any school or district may choose to provide a supplemental online course or contract with an existing virtual school or program for an online course, but they are not required to do so. During SY 2012-13, 44 of the 88 approved schools and programs accepted out-of-district students.

The state reported 4,689 full-time students and 1,220 part-time students in SY 2012-13, and a total of 5,497 FTEs. Part-time students were enrolled in either blended learning programs, advanced or credit recovery

<sup>145</sup> Virtual School/Program List 2012-2013; retrieved June 12, 2013, [http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=0noLU\\_jupMk%3d&tabid=455&mid=6785](http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=0noLU_jupMk%3d&tabid=455&mid=6785)  
<sup>146</sup> Personal communication with Jessica Noble, education program consultant, KSDE; 2 July 2013. Figures for SY 2011-12 have been updated to reflect unpublished, audited data released subsequent to publication of *Keeping Pace 2012*. There are also 1,239 “ungraded” students enrolled in SY 2013-14 (a 6% increase over SY 2012-13), i.e., adult learners pursuing high school education under some of the same KSDE-authorized programs.

courses, or supplemental courses for homeschooled students. About 30% of virtual education students study at the elementary school level, with 25% at the middle school level and 45% at the high school level. The number of full-time students increased by 699 (15%) since SY 2011-12, while the number of part-time students decreased by 400 (25%); many shifted from part- to full-time status.

### ***State policies***

The KSDE has had a comprehensive set of policies for online schools and programs, including extensive reporting, since enacting its Virtual School Act, KSA 2009 Supp. 72-3711 through 72-3716 (2008).<sup>147</sup> The act increased supervision and regulation of all virtual schools by KSDE. All virtual schools/programs are audited annually. Extensive documentation is available on the KSDE website, including an explanation of Virtual Education Requirements.<sup>148</sup>

State law permits districts to make agreements for inter-district attendance for supplemental online courses.

### ***Funding***

The Virtual School Act altered the funding of online students such that all full-time virtual students are funded at 1.05 (105%) of base FTE. The base state aid per pupil in SY 2012-13 was \$3,838; full-time virtual students received \$4,030. A number of other factors may impact funding:

- Virtual students are eligible for two additional weightings: non-proficient at-risk and Advanced Placement, which can increase the amount funded by up to 25%. Schools with a higher proportion of at-risk-weighted students receive a larger amount per pupil.
- As students may attend both a traditional school and a virtual school, funding levels may be affected by whether these schools are in the same or different districts.
- Students who attend a district's virtual school as well as a local traditional school will be counted by the school at which they undertake the most coursework. If countable time is more than 50% virtual, the student will be counted as virtual for funding purposes.

State policies did not change significantly from 2009-12; see [www.kpk12.com/states](http://www.kpk12.com/states).

<sup>147</sup> Virtual School Act; retrieved June 12, 2013, [http://kansasstatutes.lesterama.org/Chapter\\_72/Article\\_37/](http://kansasstatutes.lesterama.org/Chapter_72/Article_37/)

<sup>148</sup> Kansas State Department of Education Virtual School and Program information; retrieved June 12, 2013, <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=455>