

**ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT**

**Meeting Date: April 18, 2011**

**AGENDA ITEM No. 11-04-(2)-15**

**ACTION: (Y/N)   N**

**SUBJECT: Online Courses Report**

**INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Denise Morton, Ryan Miller, Steven Weber   PHONE: 919-732-8126**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Orange County Schools e-Learning Options
2. Student Enrollment Data for e-Learning (2008-2011)
3. Benefits of e-Learning
4. Success Stories/Anecdotal Evidence

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**PURPOSE:** To provide the Board of Education with a report on electronic online learning options (e-Learning) in Orange County Schools and student enrollment data for e-Learning in the district.

**BACKGROUND:** Orange County Schools provides students with multiple opportunities to enroll in online courses. E-Learning courses provide students with credit recovery options, opportunities to earn college credit, options to take courses which are not offered at their high school, and the opportunity to collaborate with students from other high schools. The district's goals to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates are supported by e-Learning. Available courses include credit recovery and college level courses.

Initially, North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) course offerings were only for high school students. In subsequent years course offerings were made available for middle school students. In 2008, NCVPS added Learn and Earn Online for high school students seeking college credit via community colleges and opportunities to earn university credit through UNC-G i-School.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

- NCVPS - This year's cost was \$79,961. Projected cost for 2011-2012 is \$85,000. This year Orange County Schools spent \$179.92 on books; last year we spent \$582.73.
- LEO (UNC-G i-School and Community Colleges) - does not charge a fee for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) classes. Textbook purchases are reimbursed to the district.
- NovaNET - The district has a 3 year contract for 30 licenses with NovaNET --cost \$66,445. The contract will expire in August of 2012. The licenses are used at Partnership Academy, both high schools, ACE and the middle schools.
- North Carolina School of Science and Math - Free

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education receive for information the report on online learning opportunities.

## **Orange County Schools e-Learning Options**

High school students have multiple options to enroll in e-Learning courses. e-Learning options in our district include:

### **North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS)**

North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) provides opportunities for students and parents to connect with opportunities for expanding their knowledge of virtual and blended learning. From student peer tutoring, online clubs and online parental leadership courses, NCVPS lives its mission to connect students and parents. All NCVPS courses are taught by a North Carolina certified teacher in the respective subject area. The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) provides over 100 courses - including Advanced Placement (AP), World Languages, Occupational Course of Study, and Credit Recovery courses to students across the state of North Carolina. The courses utilize the Blackboard course management software to maximize student interaction in each class.

### **Learn and Earn Online (LEO)**

North Carolina high school students can now earn free college credits through an initiative called Learn & Earn Online. Students can take a variety of online college-credit courses at no cost to Orange County Schools, the student, or their families. Students earn both high school and college credit for completed courses. Access to these courses is provided during the regular school day. This option is currently being reworked by the Governors office.

UNC-G iSchool - For this year and next, courses are offered only during spring semesters---they offer free Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) courses.

Cleveland Community College (CCC) - OCS had two students enrolled in a LEO course at CCC. OCS is looking into Durham Technical Community College and other community colleges the possibility of offering LEO courses and what choices our students might have for next year due to the pending changes coming from the Governors office.

### **NovaNet**

With individualized instruction, NovaNET is a web-based platform and curricula that meets state and national standards. NovaNET Courseware can be utilized in any number of education applications including credit accrual, dropout prevention, summer school, credit recovery, virtual schools, and more. The rigorous courses and interactive framework promote objective-based mastery helping learners reach academic success at their own pace.

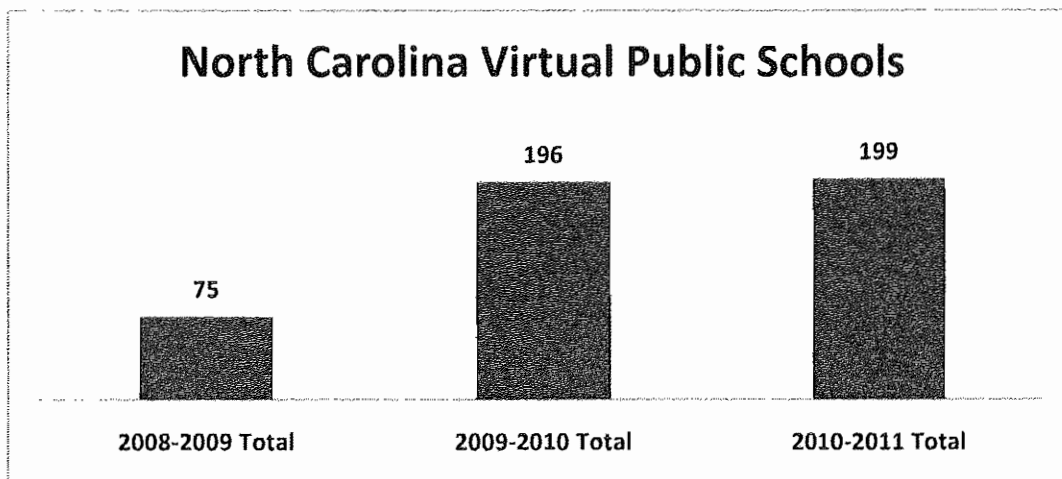
[http://www.novanet.com/learn\\_overview.html](http://www.novanet.com/learn_overview.html)

### **Online North Carolina School of Science and Math (By invitation only)**

The NCSSM Distance Education and Extended Programs (DEEP) division serves as the outreach arm of the school. Outreach has been a central component of the school's mission since its inception in 1980 to meet North Carolina's need for responsible leadership in the development and application of science, mathematics, and technology and to act as a catalyst for educational improvement in the state.

## North Carolina Virtual Public Schools (NCVPS)

	District	CRHS	OHS	PA	CWS	GHMS
<b>Academic year 2008-2009</b>	5	5				
Fall 2008	13	5	8			
Spring 2009	27	13	14			
Summer 2009	30	14	16			
2008-2009 Total	75	37	38			
Credit Rate	95%					
<b>Academic year 2009-2010</b>	13	12	1			
Fall 2009	52	33	17		1	1
Spring 2010	66	36	30			
Summer 2010	65	37	28			
2009-2010 Total	196	118	76			
Credit Rate	87%					
<b>Academic year 2010-2011</b>	10	7	3			
Fall 2010	52	18	33	1		
Spring 2011	77	46	27	4		
Summer 2011	60 (Projected)	19	29			
<b>2010-2011 Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>			



### Most popular Courses over the last two years

COURSE	ENROLLMENT
Leadership Development	33
English III	20
Psychology Honors	15
Digital Photography	14
Success 101	10
Psychology	9
SAT Prep	8
Spanish III Honors	8
Spanish II	8

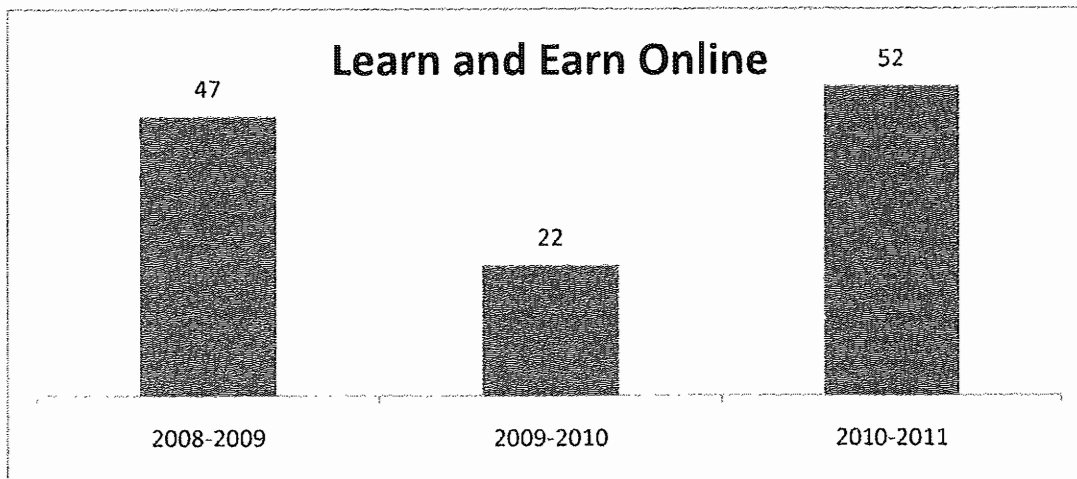
COURSE	ENROLLMENT
Algebra II	7
Geometry	7
US History	7
Calculus Honors	6
Medieval Studies	6
Civics and Economics	6
Latin III Honors	6
German II	6

**Learn and Earn Online**

	CRHS	OHS	Total
<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>47</b>
Contemporary Moral and Contemporary Issues (UNCG iSchool)	3	8	
American Politics (UNCG iSchool)		1	
Fitness For Life (UNCG iSchool)		20	
Dance (UNCG iSchool)		6	
Sociology (UNCG iSchool)	1	5	
Political Issues (UNCG iSchool)	2		
Anatomy & Physiology (UNCG iSchool)	1		
Credit Rate	86%	95%	

<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>
Contemporary Moral and Contemporary Issues (UNCG iSchool)	1	1	
American Politics (UNCG iSchool)		3	
Dance (UNCG iSchool)		1	
Fitness (UNCG iSchool)	1	11	
Music Appreciation	2		
Principles of Microeconomics	1		
Cultural Anthropology	1		
Credit Rate	100%	94%	

<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>
Metrology (Cleveland Community College)	0	2	
Business Computing (UNCG iSchool)	0	32	
Biology (UNCG iSchool)	0	12	
Astronomy (UNCG iSchool)	0	6	



NCSSM	CRHS	OHS	PA
Academic year 2008-2009	0	0	0
Academic year 2009-2010	0	3	0
Academic year 2010-2011	0	2	0

### **Benefits of e-Learning:**

- Lessons can be customized for the learner.
- Learning opportunities may be woven into daily routine.
- The learning process can be self-directed (asynchronous) and/or teacher facilitated (synchronous) depending on the lesson.
- Format uses resources more efficiently and effectively. Students can return to lessons, learn via video, and/or listen to a podcast at a time when they are ready to learn or relearn a concept.
- Online learning is a part of business life in the 21st Century; students get an early hands on experience with learning the tools and processes that will make them successful in tomorrow's world.

**Source:** <http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/parents/benefits/>

**Accessible** – All students are provided a way to get an education. There are many circumstances that prevent people from attending a live school. Online education can provide students with a quality high school program.

**Flexible** – Classes can be at any time of day. If students work or have other responsibilities, they can learn on any occasion, in almost any type of setting. Online learning makes it easy and convenient to get an education.

**Ease of Use** – Students can take their time and work at their own pace. Online high school classes are easy to comprehend and provide detailed instructions for completion. Teachers walk students through the process to ensure that they succeed.

**Sense of Independence** – Students are provided with the ability to complete something on their own terms. This provides students with a sense of accomplishment.

**Source:** [http://www.alliedhighschool.com/aa\\_distance-ed.shtml](http://www.alliedhighschool.com/aa_distance-ed.shtml)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqH-mSK\\_G2A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqH-mSK_G2A)

Video

(May be an option for the visual Dr. Morton was describing)

<http://www.ncvps.org/index.php/ncvps-media/>

Additional Videos from NCVPS

## Success Stories/Anecdotal Evidence

“The most compelling success story is this: one of our students is taking a CTE completer class on NCVPS this semester. She is graduating in June and would not have been able to without this class on NCVPS! “

*Susan Marshall M.Ed.*  
*Partnership Academy*

“Unfortunately, all of my students with UNCGi were seniors and are no longer here. But the program is a very nice success. The students get a look at what real college classes are like. It is a true college course, not dumbed down in any way. UNCGi has a very nice plan to keep up with the students so that they are monitored a bit more closely than they probably would be in an actual collegiate setting. (They can see how often they log in, etc.) Plus, the shorter collegiate semester allows the students to keep up with the class much easier... they have a week to review the material before the actual class starts (with most, if not all of the classes “open” online to allow for this.) I have found it is very possible, with our block scheduling for a student to take two online classes during one period. This theoretically means a student could graduate high school and enter college with a two year/junior classification. So essentially getting two years of college for free!

I’ve also had students who chose an online class as a sort of reprieve from the noise of a regular classroom. Students with sensory issues would do particularly well online where they can control the volume, etc. This is also true for students having issues coping with classmates or is often labeled as having an “attitude.” The motivated student who has behavior issues can often set aside those annoyances and focus on their schoolwork!

I can’t say enough good things about online UNCGi classes! Add to these things, the technological aspect and you are grooming a student to enter college armed and ready to conquer!”

*Janet Kendall*  
*Cedar Ridge High Schools*

“A real success for one of my students this year involved the access to Novanet at CRHS.

Our success student is a young person who suffered from inconsistent attendance, a real problem for students on a block schedule. Student A passed 5 out of 8 classes her freshman year missing 65 days of school. She was retained and had to retake Algebra I and English I. Her sophomore year she made some progress, she passed 6 out of 8 earning her 11 credits—retained again. She had missed 50 days. This year she started the year with the same pattern—missed 10 days of school by October 1st. At that time we offered her the opportunity to take her English II and US History on Novanet. She continued to miss school but not as much and completed English II and almost completed US History. She passed her traditional courses with all B’s.

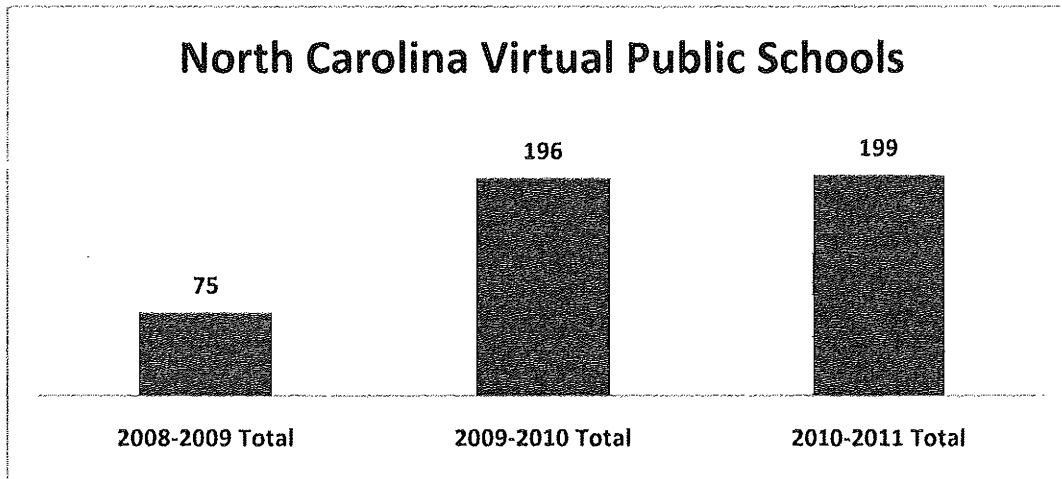
Today, she has completed the US History curriculum through Novanet, completed Psychology/Sociology course, and is now working through a Health related elective. At the 39 weeks marking period she has all B’s in her classes and has missed only 4 days this semester. At the end of this year, I am certain she will pass all of her classes and be promoted to senior status for the first time in her high school history.

This student was offered an opportunity to get back on track. While it didn’t happen right away, she was able to see progress, then she found a passion (health), and now she is back on track.”

*Tammy Havekost*  
*CRHS Guidance*

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