

MEDIA RELEASE

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First Class Graduates From Achieve Virtual Education Academy

They received their diplomas and made history at the same time.

The six students from the Achieve Virtual Education Academy who took part in a graduation ceremony the evening of June 17 were the first in the school's history to do so. The state's first public online high school is operated by the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township.

Achieve Virtual Principal Derek Eaton told the graduates to "make your own path and be the secret to your own success story." The graduates have already taken an important step in that path: earning a high school diploma from a school that serves students from throughout the state of Indiana.

Achieve Virtual serves students with a variety of needs. Some need to recover credits in order to stay on track to graduate. Some take advanced placement courses that are not available at their home high schools. Some, such as the students who graduated June 17, are full-time students at Achieve Virtual.

"Every student is different," said Achieve Virtual graduate Joshua Sterrett of Mooresville. "People have different learning styles. Achieve is one of the ways we can make our own path." Sterrett plans to attend Indiana University in Bloomington this fall.

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The Indiana Department of Education approved Achieve Virtual as a four-year pilot project in 2011. Since it was launched, the school has added college credit courses in partnership with Vincennes University.

“There are multiple pathways to get to the high school diploma,” said MSD of Wayne Township Superintendent Jeff Butts at the graduation ceremony. “Achieve Virtual, our newest school, is one more way our students, and students throughout Indiana, can get to graduation day.”

For more information on Achieve Virtual, please visit www.wayne.k12.in.us/virtualacademy/.

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