

## **Illinois Virtual Charter School @ Fox River Valley proposal**

Proposed grades: K -12

Term of Charter Contract: 5 years

Virtual Learning Solutions (VLS) will serve as the charter's governing board. It is a recently formed not for profit organization with no prior experience in school operations. Its office will be in one of the 18 districts. VLS will contract with K12 Virtual Schools LLC (K12). K12 will provide curriculum and management services to VLS. K12 curriculum includes on-line lessons, video, assessments, learning games, labs, physical experiences, published textbooks and workbooks.

Targeted population: 18 school districts

Targeted students: at-risk students, students who find brick and mortar classroom too fast or too slow, advanced learners, special needs students, special interest students (athletes, thespians, musicians), students with health concerns.

Enrollment projections:

Year 1: 500

Year 2: 750

Year 3: 1,000

Year 4: 1,500

Year 5: 2,000

The school will employ Illinois-licensed and Illinois-based teachers that are experienced educators and are highly qualified under NCLB. Teachers will have at least three years of experience. Most administrative staff will be employees of K12. There will be a Head of School (HOS) responsible for strategic planning, academic and operational aspects, staff development etc. This person will have a master's degree or equivalent work experience.

The school year will meet or exceed the Illinois requirement (176 days). The calendar will establish student – teacher interaction days. Student instructional activity will be measured through a combination of methods including student login, progress within courses, reported daily attendance and participation in required conferences.

Instruction will be provided by teachers working in conjunction with “learning coaches” (usually parents or guardians). Each student will have an Individualized Learning Plan. Each student will have an learning coach who will have an account in On-Line School (OLS) system. The learning

coaches are required to record within OLS the time spent on each course/subject on a daily basis.

One certified teacher will be assigned to each K-5 student. Students in Grades 6-8 and 9-12 may have content specific teachers. The high school program will employ a cooperative team-teaching approach.

English Language Learners services/classes will be offered.

K-8 Curriculum: Language Arts/English, Math, Science, History, Art and Music. Started in grade 3 Health/Safety/PE and Spanish, French, German and Latin will also be offered.

Grades 9-12 Curriculum: Comprehensive list of high school courses. Guidance counselors will be available for these students.

Special Education students will have an IEP. Related service providers, if required, will be geographically convenient to the student and may be provided through contracts with the student's school district of residence or a private agency.

Extracurricular activities include a school council, a community service club and additional clubs depending on student interest. Opportunities for socialization between students include special interest clubs and field trips. Teachers will attend these events. There will also be a virtual social community and a parent network.

ISATs will be administered in proctored settings by Illinois-licensed teachers.

Pre-operational costs will be covered by cash advances or grants from K12 and its subsidiaries. The school also plans to apply for a Charter School Planning Subgrant through the USDOE. This could provide as much as \$160,000 assuming (as ILVCS@FRV does) that planning subgrants for online schools would be the same as for all other public school academies.