

# WVS Frequently Asked Questions

## What is WVS?

Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) is YOUR Wisconsin Web Academy, a partnership between DPI and CESA 9. Wisconsin Virtual School partners with school districts throughout the state, to offer online courses to middle and high school students. WVS uncomplicates the process of adding virtual courses to a district's middle and high school curriculum, providing the content, platform, Wisconsin-certified online teachers, technical support, training, server, online policy development assistance, and much more. With WVS, districts can offer online options to their students with minimal cost and time. Districts retain control of key policy decisions and enrollment.

## What Courses are Offered?

Wisconsin Virtual School offers middle, high school, Credit Recovery and Advanced Placement curriculum, using media-rich, high quality, Internet-based content. By partnering with local districts, we help districts extend curriculum, create more options for students, and custom fit programs to district needs.

WVS courses range from core curriculum such as English, science, mathematics and social studies to success-enhancing courses such as life skills and career planning to electives such as foreign language, technology, Phy. Ed. and personal finance. These courses are designed specifically for Internet delivery at the individual learner's pace. See a detailed list of course offerings at [www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org](http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org).

## Do Courses Meet Wisconsin Standards?

Yes, WVS courses meet both state and national standards. We use Wisconsin content-specific certified teachers, specifically trained to meet our rigorous Internet-based teaching pedagogy and students enjoy quality, one-on-one communication with the teacher.

## Why Use Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS)?

WVS courses enable districts to stretch their resources and ensure high quality at the same time. With Wisconsin Virtual School, you can address specific student needs with the ultimate in flexibility. Advantages of partnering with WVS include:

- ❖ Local control over your virtual education policies and procedures
- ❖ No contracts to sign or membership fees, single enrollments welcome
- ❖ Quick and easy enrollment
- ❖ Enrollment stays in the district
- ❖ Low cost, avoiding the usual "start up" expenses associated with beginning an online program.
- ❖ Wisconsin-certified teachers, trained in facilitation of virtual education.
- ❖ High-quality, media-rich interactive courses, a user-friendly platform, technical support, training, policy-setting assistance, administrative support, and more. The burden of operating a virtual education program out of your district is lifted. You simply enroll and support your students with a local education guide (LEG), i.e. a mentor to the student and liaison to WVS and its teachers.
- ❖ No textbooks to buy (except AP courses)
- ❖ Recapture or prevent dropouts
- ❖ A solution for students with credit deficiencies, schedule conflicts, homebound, adjudication, truancy, expulsions, teen parents, special needs, gifted and talented, underserved, summer school, and other situations where one-on-one instruction is desired.

## How Do Students Receive Credit and a Grade for Their Coursework?

The WVS teacher and CESA 9 notify the district of the student's course completion percentage and the district determines and issues the letter grade, and grants credit according to local district policies.

### **What are the Timelines for Enrolling In and Completing a Course?**

Students may enroll in a WVS course during the fall and spring semesters, as well as during our 8 week summer term. Students are allowed up to five months to complete a fall or spring term semester course, up to 12 weeks to complete a credit recovery course, and up to 8 weeks to complete a summer course.

### **What Are the Basic Technical Requirements for Participating?**

<b>Browser:</b>	Firefox 2.x or Higher Internet Explorer 6.x or Higher Safari 3.x or Higher Popup Blocking Disabled Javascript Enabled
<b>Operating System:</b>	Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7 Macintosh OSX
<b>Media:</b>	Soundcard and Speakers/Headphones Microphone required for certain courses
<b>Plugins:</b>	Sun Java Runtime Environment 1.4 or Higher Flash Player Version 10.0 or Higher Quicktime Version 7.1 or Higher Real Player required for certain courses
<b>RAM:</b>	256MB
<b>Resolution:</b>	800 x 600

### **What is it Like to Take an Online Course?**

An Internet-based approach to learning uses interactive online technology and requires active participation in each course. There are frequent one-on-one communications with the teacher and regular assignments. Online courses provide a rich multimedia environment with engaging, high-quality content for individualized discovery through the learning process.

This dynamic content immerses students in imaginative experiences, using a myriad of learning tools that are unique to an Internet-based format. Students engage in dynamic learning activities and student-selected learning paths, which are multimedia-enforced. Students are able to self-monitor their progress and create multimedia portfolios, in a seamless learning environment, not bound by time and space.

### **How Do We Get Started?**

- ❖ WVS requires the district to assign a Local Education Guide (LEG) or mentor for the student who also serves as the liaison for the WVS teacher. Successful course completion depends upon a LEG who follows up with the student on a regular basis.
- ❖ New LEGs must call 715-453-2141 for a username and password to register students on our secure site.
- ❖ The students and their districts decide which courses to take.
- ❖ The LEG enrolls students **online** at: <http://wvs.office.aventalearning.com>.
- ❖ After WVS processes the registration, the student will receive an e-mail confirmation that provides a username and password for accessing the course.
- ❖ Students have 5 months in the fall and spring terms to complete their courses from the date they receive course access. The summer term is 8 weeks long. Students taking Credit Recovery courses are allowed 12 weeks access. Extensions are available under some conditions for a fee.
- ❖ The district is billed for students who remain enrolled past 14 days.

**For more information**, call WVS at 715-453-2141, or e-mail us at [wvs@wisconsinvirtuallschool.org](mailto:wvs@wisconsinvirtuallschool.org).