

Hillsborough Online Student Survey 2007

As part of its Franchise Agreement with The Florida Virtual School (FLVS), Hillsborough County Schools has agreed to survey its online students annually in order to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of its virtual education program. The surveying process is a two-part procedure in which two distinct surveys are “sent” to students. The first survey is a general survey asking students some school-specific questions as well as several questions about the learners themselves. This survey is conducted in a mass email to students at the end of the school year; they are asked to go to a particular URL and complete the survey. Students complete this survey only once during the school year. The return rate for this portion of Hillsborough’s data was 24 surveys or 4% of all the students who completed, were active, or who had dropped their online course in 2006-07. The feedback from these students is shown in Section One of this report.

The second survey is a teacher/course specific survey in which students are asked several questions about their virtual school course and teacher. This survey is automatically built into the students’ courses and works in the following manner. Once a student reaches 65% completion in his or her course, he is congratulated, told to complete the survey, and redirected to the survey URL. Thus, students may complete several of these surveys annually depending upon the number of virtual courses in which he/she participates. There were 686 teacher/course specific surveys completed for Hillsborough County as of May 14, 2007. Information on Hillsborough County’s virtual courses and teachers is shared in the second section of this document.

The two-step surveying process described above allows stakeholders to have distinct information on the virtual school, as a whole, as well as feedback on the overall quality of courses and teachers. The remainder of this report shows students’ responses to all of the survey items.

Section One: General Feedback & Student Information

Please check the statement that best reflects your experience with your virtual school:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| I am currently taking an online course and have never withdrawn from an online course in the past. | 4 | 16.7% | 16.7% | 16.7% |
| I am currently taking an online course but have withdrawn from an online course in the past. | 5 | 20.8% | 20.8% | 20.8% |
| I am not taking any online course currently, but I have taken and completed at least one online course in the past. | 13 | 54.2% | 54.2% | 54.2% |
| I am not taking any online course currently, nor have I completed any online course in the past. | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |

Please rate yourself on the following statements:

| Topic | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Not Answered | Not Asked |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|
| I am highly motivated and self-disciplined. | 3 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| I can set a personal schedule and complete assigned work by the required dates. | 2 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| My writing and communication skills are better than average. | 7 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| I try to solve problems and work through difficulties independently. | 5 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| I can read and follow detailed instructions on my own. | 13 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

The main reason I enrolled in the virtual school :

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| To take an extra course | 4 | 16.7% | 16.7% | 16.7% |
| To take a course not offered at my school | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| To raise a course grade/ grade forgiveness | 5 | 20.8% | 20.8% | 20.8% |
| To balance academic and extracurricular activities | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| Hospital Homebound | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| Personal preference | 7 | 29.2% | 29.2% | 29.2% |
| To accelerate graduation/ get ahead | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Other | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |

I access my online course(s) primarily from:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Home only | 20 | 83.3% | 83.3% | 83.3% |
| School only | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Combination of home and school, but mostly home | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| Combination of home and school, but mostly school | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| School and home equally | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Community center or library | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

I am a:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| public school student | 22 | 91.7% | 91.7% | 91.7% |
| private school student | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| home school student | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| charter school student | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| other | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

My general computer experience prior to my participation with this virtual school:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No previous background with computers | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| A little experience | 5 | 20.8% | 20.8% | 20.8% |
| A great deal of computer experience | 14 | 58.3% | 58.3% | 58.3% |
| Extremely proficient | 5 | 20.8% | 20.8% | 20.8% |

My general Internet experience prior to my participation with this virtual school:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No previous background | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| A little experience | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| A great deal of Internet experience | 10 | 41.7% | 41.7% | 41.7% |
| Extremely proficient | 11 | 45.8% | 45.8% | 45.8% |

My experience with this virtual school:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| I never have technical problems that interfere with getting work done. | 11 | 45.8% | 45.8% | 45.8% |
| I sometimes have technical problems that interfere with getting work done. | 10 | 41.7% | 41.7% | 41.7% |
| I often have technical problems that interfere with getting work done. | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| I have a great deal of technical problems that interfere with getting work done. | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% | 12.5% |

Most questions related to technical problems are resolved:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Within 24 hours | 6 | 25.0% | 25.0% | 25.0% |
| Within 2 to 3 days | 5 | 20.8% | 20.8% | 20.8% |
| In a period greater than 3 days | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| Not applicable - I never have technical problems | 11 | 45.8% | 45.8% | 45.8% |

Most of my technical problems are resolved by:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Emails to help@flvs.net | 3 | 13.6% | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| Calls to the tech help toll free number | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Contact with my teacher | 16 | 72.7% | 66.7% | 66.7% |
| Other | 3 | 13.6% | 12.5% | 12.5% |

The learning management system (where the course content is accessed, where I turn in assignments, participate in discussion, and take exam) is:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very easy to use | 6 | 25.0% | 25.0% | 25.0% |
| Easy to use | 17 | 70.8% | 70.8% | 70.8% |
| Difficult to use | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Very difficult to use | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Accessing my virtual school course(s) is:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very easy; I can get into my course(s) whenever I want. | 15 | 62.5% | 62.5% | 62.5% |
| Easy; I can almost always get into my course(s). | 9 | 37.5% | 37.5% | 37.5% |
| Difficult; I often have trouble getting into my course(s). | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Very difficult; I very often have trouble getting into my course(s). | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

The online registration process was:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very easy | 8 | 33.3% | 33.3% | 33.3% |
| Easy | 15 | 62.5% | 62.5% | 62.5% |
| Difficult | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Very Difficult | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| I do not register online | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

I found out about this virtual school from:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a school counselor | 10 | 41.7% | 41.7% | 41.7% |
| a friend | 7 | 29.2% | 29.2% | 29.2% |
| an ad in my high school newspaper | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| a newspaper article | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| a TV news report or advertisement | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| a radio advertisement | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| a home education office | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| a home school meeting or convention | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| an Internet search | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| a family member | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| a community even or meeting (festivals, Rotary, etc) | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other | 2 | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |

What part of this statement, "Any time, any place, any path, any pace," is most important to you in relation to your online course(s)?

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Any time | 17 | 70.8% | 70.8% | 70.8% |
| Any place | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Any path | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Any pace | 6 | 25.0% | 25.0% | 25.0% |

I would recommend this virtual school to other students.

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | 12 | 50.0% | 50.0% | 50.0% |
| Agree | 9 | 37.5% | 37.5% | 37.5% |
| Disagree | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| Strongly disagree | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

What type of Internet connection do you primarily use while working on your online course(s)?

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Modem connection 28K or less | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Modem connection 56K or less | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Cable modem | 8 | 33.3% | 33.3% | 33.3% |
| DSL | 14 | 58.3% | 58.3% | 58.3% |
| High speed access from my school | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |

What type of computer do you use?

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Windows | 23 | 95.8% | 95.8% | 95.8% |
| Macintosh | 1 | 4.2% | 4.2% | 4.2% |
| Unix/Linux | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Which of the following technologies do you use regularly? (Choose all that apply.)

| Choice | Count | Percent of Sample Asked | Percent of Total Sample |
|---|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cell Phone with Web Access or Smart Phone | 14 | 58.3% | 58.3% |
| MP3 Player/ iPod | 18 | 75.0% | 75.0% |
| Music Downloads | 18 | 75.0% | 75.0% |
| Online Gaming | 8 | 33.3% | 33.3% |
| PDA | 3 | 12.5% | 12.5% |
| Blogs | 8 | 33.3% | 33.3% |

Section Two: Course/Teacher Items

Approximately, how long have/had you been active in this course?

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| < 1 month | 150 | 21.9% | 21.9% | 21.9% |
| 1-3 months | 384 | 56.0% | 56.0% | 56.0% |
| 4-6 months | 121 | 17.6% | 17.6% | 17.6% |
| 7-10 months | 28 | 4.1% | 4.1% | 4.1% |
| >10 months | 3 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |

The goals and objectives of this online course are:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very clear | 328 | 48.2% | 47.8% | 47.8% |
| Clear | 329 | 48.3% | 48.0% | 48.0% |
| Vague | 21 | 3.1% | 3.1% | 3.1% |
| Non existent | 3 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |

Overall, the directions throughout this online course are:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very clear | 241 | 35.3% | 35.1% | 35.1% |
| Clear | 388 | 56.8% | 56.6% | 56.6% |
| Vague | 54 | 7.9% | 7.9% | 7.9% |
| Non existent | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

This online course captures/captured my attention.

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | 135 | 19.7% | 19.7% | 19.7% |
| Agree | 465 | 67.8% | 67.8% | 67.8% |
| Disagree | 73 | 10.6% | 10.6% | 10.6% |
| Strongly disagree | 13 | 1.9% | 1.9% | 1.9% |

The course materials provided to me assist/assisted me in being successful in this course.

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | 181 | 26.5% | 26.4% | 26.4% |
| Agree | 419 | 61.3% | 61.1% | 61.1% |
| Disagree | 23 | 3.4% | 3.4% | 3.4% |
| Strongly disagree | 3 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| Not applicable - No outside resources were provided to me for this course. | 58 | 8.5% | 8.5% | 8.5% |

Communication with the teacher(s) of this course is/was:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Great | 309 | 45.2% | 45.0% | 45.0% |
| Good | 285 | 41.7% | 41.5% | 41.5% |
| Fair | 69 | 10.1% | 10.1% | 10.1% |
| Poor | 21 | 3.1% | 3.1% | 3.1% |

Most questions related to course content or assignments are/were resolved:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Within 24 hours | 460 | 67.4% | 67.1% | 67.1% |
| Within 2 to 3 days | 142 | 20.8% | 20.7% | 20.7% |
| In a period greater than 3 days | 26 | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.8% |
| Not applicable - I've never had such questions. | 54 | 7.9% | 7.9% | 7.9% |

I spoke/speak with the teacher of this course:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| At least once a month | 539 | 79.5% | 78.6% | 78.6% |
| Once every two months | 77 | 11.4% | 11.2% | 11.2% |
| Less than once every two months | 38 | 5.6% | 5.5% | 5.5% |
| Never | 24 | 3.5% | 3.5% | 3.5% |

Communication with other students enrolled in this course is/was:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|--------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Great | 74 | 10.9% | 10.8% | 10.8% |
| Good | 201 | 29.7% | 29.3% | 29.3% |
| Fair | 198 | 29.3% | 28.9% | 28.9% |
| Poor | 203 | 30.0% | 29.6% | 29.6% |

In this course, I use/used the synchronous chat functionality: (The synchronous chat function could be used for group tutorials held by teacher, student-to-student cooperative work, and/or one-on-one teacher-student interaction.)

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Very often | 10 | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Often | 27 | 4.0% | 3.9% | 3.9% |
| Sometimes | 80 | 11.8% | 11.7% | 11.7% |
| Never | 474 | 69.8% | 69.1% | 69.1% |
| Not available | 88 | 13.0% | 12.8% | 12.8% |

The chat functionality helps/helped me be successful in this course.

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|---|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | 16 | 2.3% | 2.3% | 2.3% |
| Agree | 78 | 11.4% | 11.4% | 11.4% |
| Disagree | 26 | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.8% |
| Strongly disagree | 8 | 1.2% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Not applicable - I've never used the chat feature | 509 | 74.6% | 74.2% | 74.2% |
| Not available | 45 | 6.6% | 6.6% | 6.6% |

The hours per week I spend/spent completing this online course are about:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0-1 hour per week | 10 | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| 1-2 hours per week | 69 | 10.2% | 10.1% | 10.1% |
| 2-4 hours per week | 211 | 31.1% | 30.8% | 30.8% |
| 5-10 hours per week | 298 | 43.9% | 43.4% | 43.4% |
| Over 10 hours per week | 91 | 13.4% | 13.3% | 13.3% |

Compared to a traditional high school class, the difficulty level of this online course is:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Much harder | 36 | 5.3% | 5.2% | 5.2% |
| Harder | 156 | 22.9% | 22.7% | 22.7% |
| The same level of difficulty | 224 | 32.8% | 32.7% | 32.7% |
| Easier | 136 | 19.9% | 19.8% | 19.8% |
| Much easier | 43 | 6.3% | 6.3% | 6.3% |
| Not sure | 87 | 12.8% | 12.7% | 12.7% |

Compared to a traditional high school class, the quality of this online course is:

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Much better | 138 | 20.2% | 20.1% | 20.1% |
| Better | 226 | 33.1% | 32.9% | 32.9% |
| The same quality | 195 | 28.6% | 28.4% | 28.4% |
| Worse | 34 | 5.0% | 5.0% | 5.0% |
| Much worse | 10 | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Not sure | 79 | 11.6% | 11.5% | 11.5% |

My online teacher(s) demonstrated an interest in my success as a student.

| Choice | Count | Percentage of Sample Answering | Percentage of Sample Asked | Percentage of Total Sample |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Strongly agree | 297 | 43.6% | 43.3% | 43.3% |
| Agree | 361 | 53.0% | 52.6% | 52.6% |
| Disagree | 17 | 2.5% | 2.5% | 2.5% |
| Strongly disagree | 6 | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.9% |

Conclusion

The findings from the 2007 Hillsborough Online Student Survey were generally favorable. Overall, it seems that students felt positive about their online experience, as indicated by the high percentage of students (87.5%) who either “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they would recommend FLVS to other students. 12.5% of students who responded said they would not recommend FLVS to other students

Regarding their courses, over half of the students who responded (53.3%) felt the *quality* of their online courses was “much better” or “better” than traditional high school classes; 28.6% felt the quality was the “same;” only 6.5% felt the quality of their online courses was “worse” or “much worse;” and 11.5% said they weren’t sure. When surveyed about the *difficulty* of their online courses, more than half of the students (61%) felt that their online courses were either the “same,” “harder,” or “much harder” in difficulty as traditional high school courses. Just over a quarter of the students who responded (26.2%) felt that their courses were “much easier” or “easier” than a traditional high school class and 12.8% stated they weren’t sure.

Communication between teachers and students was rated positively overall this year, with room for improvement in some areas. A majority of students—86.9%—felt that communication with their teachers was either “great” or “good.” This is an improvement over the last two years (83% in 2006 and 74% in 2005). However, there were still 13.2%

of students who felt that communication between students and teachers was either “fair” or “poor” this year. Although this figure has improved since last year’s 18%, it still represents a need for continued improvement. Here is a representative sampling of some open-ended comments regarding overall communication:

- *“The communication was fairly good with the teacher but we did have some miscommunication as to when all of the course work was do.”*
- *“I talk to my teacher on a regular basis, and the conversations are always very educational, helpful and in a comfortable atmosphere for both my teacher and I.”*
- *“My teacher is absolutely wonderful! She stuck with me and encouraged me I believe the longest out of any of my teachers. And that goes for day school as well as my online classes.”*
- *“I work 40 hours a week and it was hard to keep in touch. I did most of the work at night.”*
- *“I was not truly clear right up till the end that the deadline was so completely inflexible. I do not feel my instructor stressed this point to me nearly enough. My previous experience with online courses had led me to believe that the class had a little more flexibility.”*
- *“She was available on the weekends which was great for me because I worked a lot. She also was very attentive to phone calls and e-mails throughout the course.”*
- *“Sometimes he doesn't answer the phone, messages from home never get to him.”*
- *“It was hard to get her on the phone most times, but through email was easy to communicate.”*
- *“It was hard for me to get in touch with my teacher by the phone, especially because I don't have a very free or flexible schedule, but he always got back to me by e-mail the following day.”*
- *“It is difficult because you cannot have one-on-one contact with the teacher next to you to explain questions you may have. Questions asked of the instructor are either never answered or not answered in a timely manner.”*

Other communication findings:

- 67.4% of students stated problems they had were resolved within 24 hours, up from 65% last year.
- 79.5% of students reported that they speak with their teacher at least once per month, and 11.4% said once every two months. Although a considerably high number of students (9.1%) stated they communicated with their teacher either “less than once every two months” or “never” this year, it is an improvement over the figure of 13% last year.

Overall, students surveyed had favorable remarks regarding their online course experiences and their teachers. They described in this year’s survey many advantages of their online courses. Following are some general student comments about courses and teachers:

- *“Being able to learn and accelerate at your own pace. In high school, you move along as a class. But not independently. Sometimes, not everyone gets it. And in most of the students that don’t understand clearly, more than half of them aren’t willing to raise their hand and admit it. Learning through a virtual school, on the other hand, allows you to learn at your own pace, and you don’t have to move on until you really understand it. If you get stuck, there are always helpful teachers standing by. I even feel that most of them are more helpful than teachers in a “reality-based” high school.”*
- *“The instructions and information given are clearer and better presented in the online class than in a traditional class.”*
- *“You don’t have to worry about the teacher’s attitude when you learn what you need to know each day and the lessons are well planned. It does take a longer time than a normal class, but you don’t have to worry about being distracted by other students.”*
- *“The teaching method (using web pages to teach you what you need to know instead of a teacher telling you what you need to know) is a lot better because you can go at your own pace, instead of the pace that everyone as a group goes.”*