

Florida
VirtualSchool

any time, any place, any path, any pace™

Florida
VirtualSchool
2007 - 2008

2007 - 2008

ParentSurvey



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Table of Contents by Survey Items

What is the highest degree earned by your child’s mother, father, or guardian?	Page 2
Is your child a public, private or home schooled student?	Page 3
How does your child access FLVS courses?	Page 4
The main reason your child enrolled in FLVS was:	Page 5
Has your child spoken to a FLVS School Counselor?	Page 6
If your child spoke to a FLVS School Counselor, was the School Counselor helpful?	Page 7
Please rate the level of technical problems experienced by your child in his/her FLVS course(s):	Page 8
Most questions relating to technical problems are resolved:	Page 10
Most of my child’s technical problems are resolved by:	Page 11
On average, the number of hours per week your child spends/spent on this FLVS course	Page 12
Communication between your child and the teacher/other students in the course is:	Page 13
What communication mode did you/your child find most helpful with this particular FLVS course and teacher?	Page 14
FLVS teachers are required to speak to FLVS students and parents once per month. Do you feel this expectation has been met?	Page 15
How beneficial was the welcome call for this course?	Page 16
How long was the welcome call for this course?	Page 16
This FLVS teacher has shown a special interest in my child’s success with FLVS.	Page 17

Most questions relating to the course content or assignments are resolved:	Page 18
Please rate your child’s learning experience in this FLVS course(s) as compared to most traditional high school courses.	Page 19
Please rate the engagement level of this FLVS course compared to most traditional high school courses.	Page 20
Please rate the quality of your child’s experience with FLVS.	Page 21
Do FLVS courses engage your family in the learning process?	Page 23
Would you encourage your child to participate in other FLVS courses?	Page 24
Would you recommend FLVS to other parents?	Page 26
What part of the FLVS motto, “Any time, any place, any path, any pace,” is most important for your child?	Page 27
Has your child experienced any school or district level barriers that have kept him/her from taking courses with FLVS?	Page 29
The best thing(s) about FLVS is:	Page 30
Recommendation for the FLVS:	Page 31

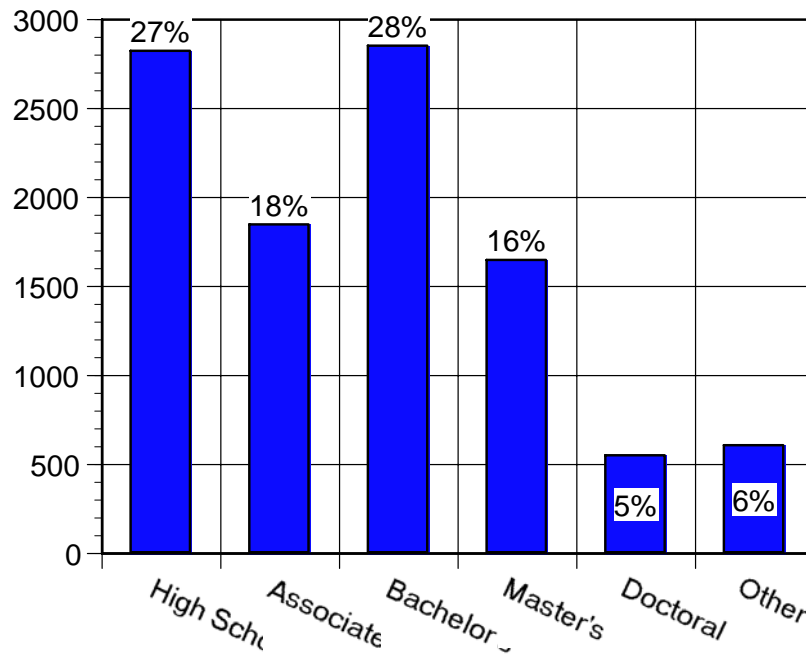
The Florida Virtual School Parent Survey 2007-08

For school year 2007-08, Florida Virtual School (FLVS) contracted with Optimal Performance, Inc. (OPI) to gather feedback and data from parents regarding their FLVS experiences. The surveying process designed by OPI and FLVS is a two-part procedure in which two distinct surveys are “sent” to FLVS parents. The first survey is a general survey asking parents some school-specific questions as well as several questions about the respondent and his/her child; parents are requested to fill this instrument out only once during the school year immediately after his child completes his first FLVS course. The return rate for this portion of FLVS’s data was 10,693 surveys or 43% of all the parents who had an FLVS student that completed a FLVS course in 2007-08.

Part 2 of the surveying process is a teacher/course specific survey in which parents are asked several questions about their child’s virtual school course and teacher. This survey is automatically “sent” to the parent once his child reaches 65% completion in his or her course. Thus, parents may complete several of these surveys annually depending upon the number of virtual courses in which their child participates. The return rate for the course/teacher specific survey was 19,537 responses or 66% of FLVS parents whose child completed 65% of his/her course as of May 1, 2008.

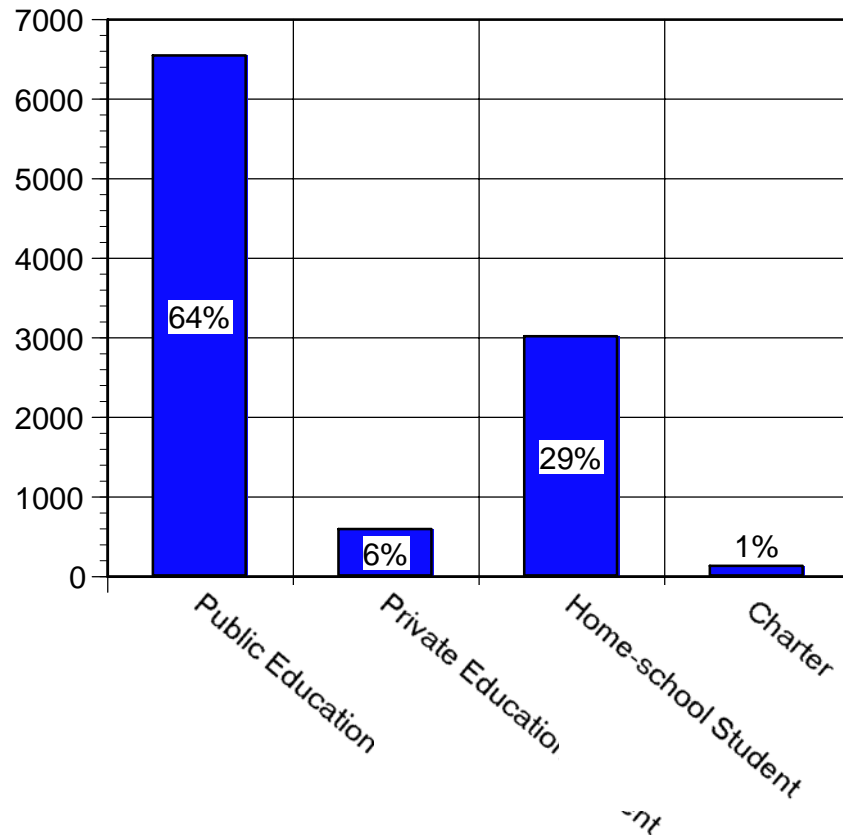
The two-step surveying process described above allows stakeholders to have distinct information on FLVS, as a whole, as well as feedback on the overall quality of courses and teachers. In addition, FLVS can log on to a secure, web-based system where personnel can review individual teacher/course reports used for feedback and review of teacher performance. The remainder of this report provides an overview of the responses to all of the Parent Survey questions. Where possible, open-ended comments are provided to give context to the respondents’ forced-choice answers. However, please note that the comments provided are only a subset of the thousands of remarks provided for each survey item. Overall, FLVS parents are very positive when discussing their ongoing experiences with FLVS.

What is the highest degree earned by your child's mother, father, or guardian?



This report provides an overview of the responses to all of the Parent Survey questions. Where possible, open-ended comments are provided to give context to the respondents' forced-choice answers. However, please note that the comments provided are only a subset of the thousands of comments provided for each survey item. Overall, FLVS parents are very positive when discussing their ongoing experiences with FLVS. The majority felt that the courses were of high quality and that the instructors were excellent and very responsive. Most parents are grateful that Florida provides such a cutting-edge, high quality educational option for students.

Which option best describes your child?



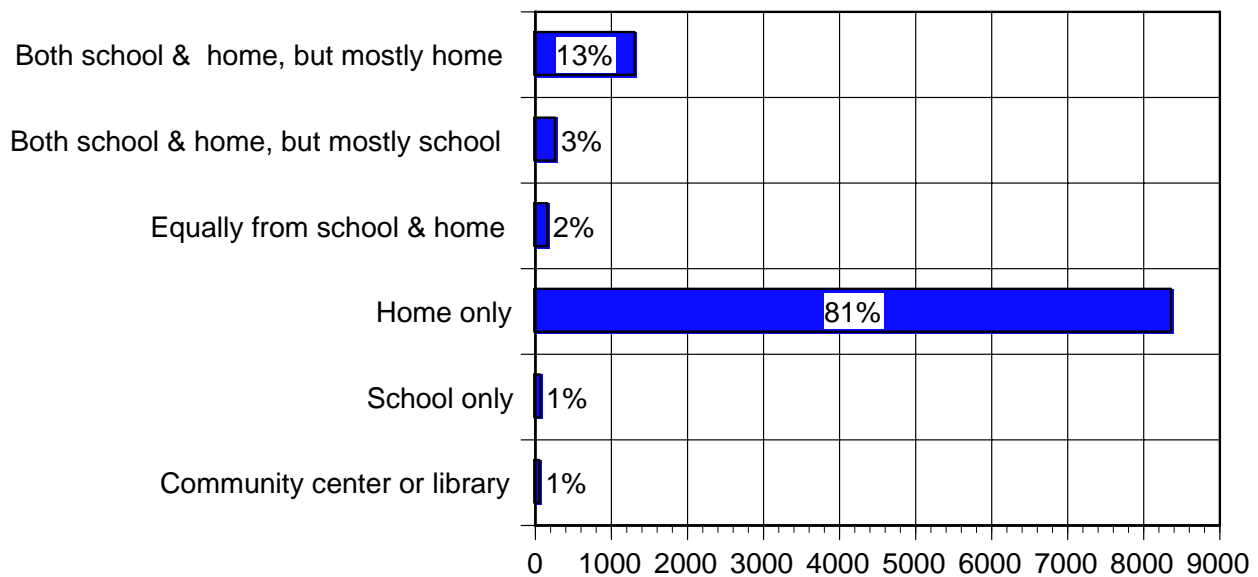
Over the years, the population being served by FLVS has remained constant. In 2007-08, the vast majority of parents indicated that their child was a public school student (64%). Twenty nine percent of parents said their child was home –schooled, while 6% were in private schooled. The following were comments made by parents of FLVS students who indicated “other” as their option, further illustrating the variety of students and situations served by this online institution.

- *Home-school/private school. She attends on Mondays on which they teach her and give her homework, as well as grading their completed homework, and she does her work at home during the rest of the week. Dominique has mostly been in public school. This is his first year as a home schooled student.*
- *Cristina was doing her schooling through North Dakota Independent Study, registered through the home school division. She is currently in a public high school.*
- *My child is currently attending a dual enrollment program at Manatee Community College. She is also a home-school student.*
- *Amy has been in public, private, montessori and charter schooling, she excelled most in the montessori school.*
- *My child is getting her GED, but needs this course to continue. Hospital Homebound. Gabbie needs a variety of teaching styles to stay interested in*

completing her work. At this time we use flvs, home school, and extra curricular dance classes at a private school.

- *My child has attended public education from K-6th grade, he was then home-schooled for 7th and 8th grade. For this year, I am having him attend a private school but using FLVS for his curricula, but I am having him repeat the 8th grade. Magnet school student*
- *Technically, he is private because he is under an umbrella school. However he goes to school one day a week with other homeschoolers.*
- *Home-schooled now via FLVS to remove her from peers and failing Public education.*

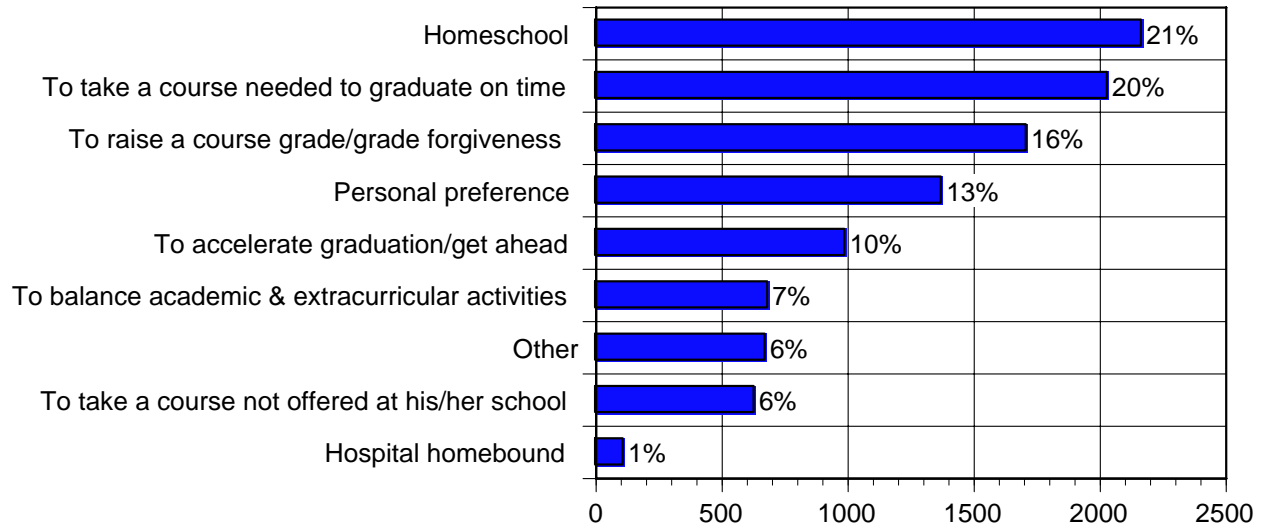
How does your child access FLVS courses?



Home is the most popular access point for students of FLVS. Eighty-one percent of parents indicated that “home only” was how their child logged on to course(s), while only 1% replied their child accessed FLVS from a community center or library. The following comments demonstrate the portability of FLVS. No matter how hectic the student’s lifestyle is, FLVS can accommodate his/her schedule. Whether students are traveling, dual enrolled, participating in sports, or engaged in other extra-curricular activities, FLVS can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no matter where their location.

- *She comes to my job and uses the laptop.*
- *Combination of home and travel*
- *Combination of home and public library, but mostly home. Home, Library, Laptop at Hot Spots*
- *FLVS is accessed from home and printing and faxing is done at the local community center.*
- *Most of the course was completed at home. Now he is doing some using a computer located at a school.*

The main reason your child enrolled in FLVS:

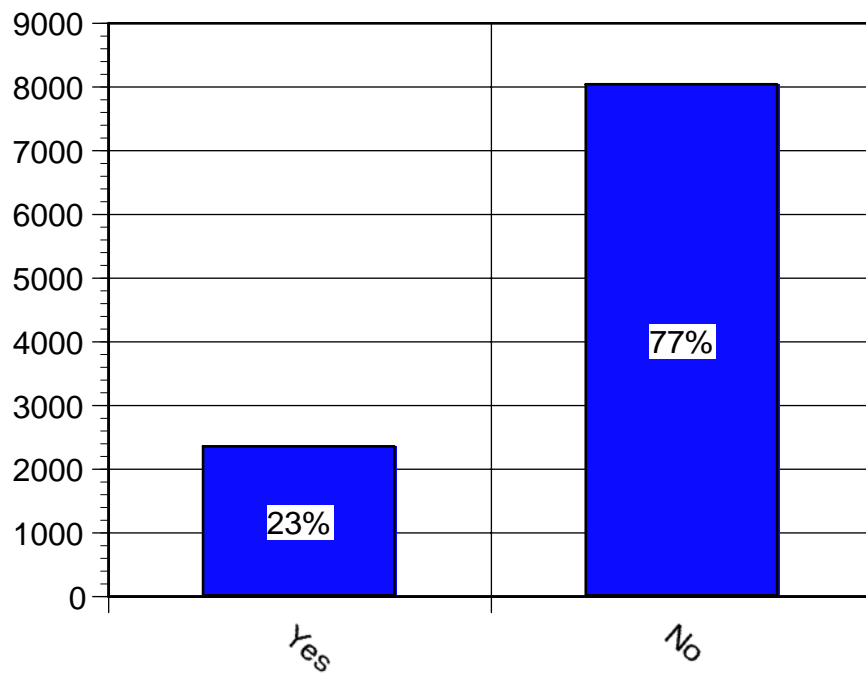


FLVS caters to a diverse group of students; therefore reasoning behind enrollment differs amongst the population. Whether it be making up for a poor grade, accelerating graduation, or taking a course that was not offered in the student's institution, FLVS caters to many situations. For this survey item, the main reason chosen for "reason enrolling" is students being home schooled, with 21% of parents selecting this choice on the survey. Another large cause for students enrolling (20%) was "to take a course needed to graduate on time." The comments below from FLVS parents prove their gratitude for the flexibility the online school provides.

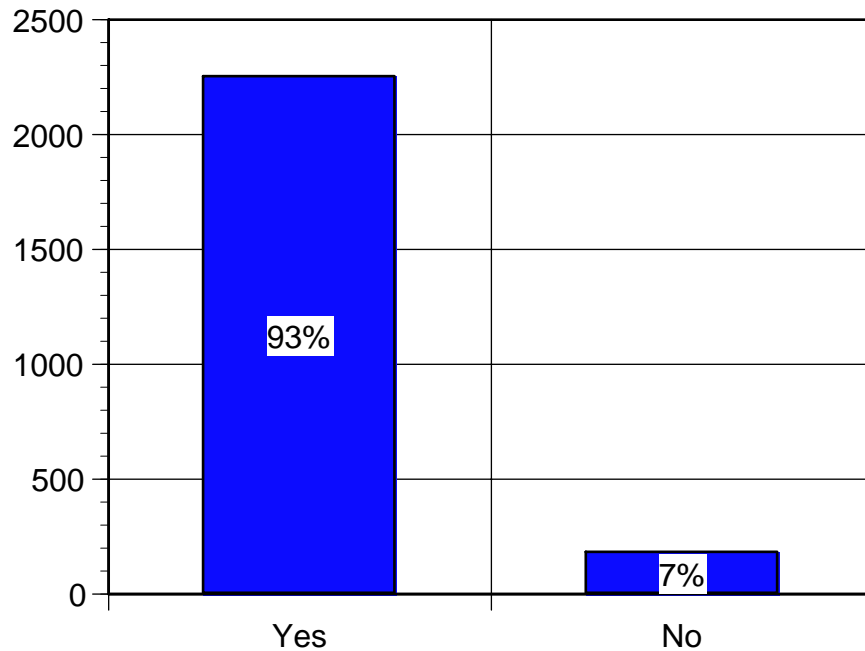
- *Due to health reasons I had to remove her from public school. This way she could work at her own pace when well.*
- *Cristina was very ill for several years. She fell behind pace & her goal is to graduate on time with her class. She wanted to attend high school with her friends this year & in doing so, her counselor & I kept her schedule a bit simple because she has good days & bad days. Her health is better, but not 100%, she still had bad days when she can not go to school. FLVS was the only option for Cristina to be able to graduate on time with her friends & it doesn't make her feel any "different" than any one else.*
- *My daughter use to be in a public school, but she has too many competitions this year and she would have to skip too many weeks of school*
- *He trains tennis very hard,he has a complicated schedule, and with VS he can manage his study times better*
- *She is trying for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.*
- *Geometry Honors teacher at the high school has a high failing rate and is infamous for not teaching well.*
- *She was being bullied so bad in the "brick" building inspite of administrative efforts to intercede. Her grades dropped and we took her out and put her in FLVS.*
- *He doesn't do well in a classroom setting so he decided to try to take online courses instead to get enough credits to graduate.*

- *Seventh Period class, she needs the Foreign Language credit to go to USF but she had other classes to take during school.*
- *To receive Florida Bright Futures to better prepare for college.*
- *My daughter is currently in tech school, therefore she is missing this credit to finish high school.*
- *To preclude environments with forced social interaction and peer pressure, wasting time, and to better become self-reliant and independent.*
- *My son is frequently absent from school due to illness. With online schooling he does not miss instruction.*
- *We have to leave for Japan for about a month or longer and I would not like her to get behind.*
- *ADHD and couldn't work with other kids*

Has your child spoken to a FLVS School Counselor?



If your child spoke to a FLVS School Counselor, was the School Counselor helpful?

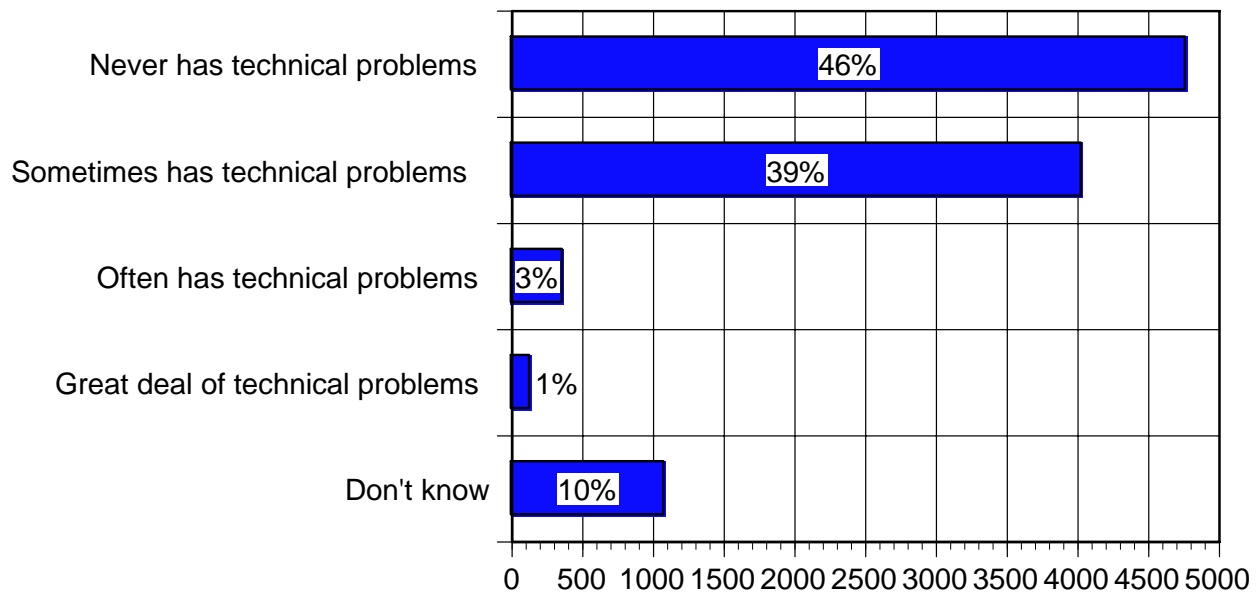


Twenty three percent of parents of FLVS students indicated that their child spoke to a FLVS guidance counselor during the 2007-08 school year. Of those students who used guidance services, 93% reported that the counselor was helpful. Registration and scheduling were the most common issues with which students needed assistance. FLVS guidance counselors are there to help with these situations, as well as monitoring the progress of students and helping them through any other problems they may encounter while enrolled in the online institution. There were several parents who indicated that they “didn’t know” their child had access to FLVS guidance counselors. Perhaps, this is an area that FLVS could improve upon – getting the word out about this useful service. The comments below are from parents regarding the guidance counselor services offered by FLVS.

- *Have not needed to. Great communication with teachers.*
- *My child speaks to her FLVS school counselor every year to discuss her courses, high school requirements, and GPA.*
- *To help her choose the perfect class for her.*
- *She spoke to a counselor to get her classes started.*
- *I was not aware there was actually a counselor available for students on the Florida Virtual School.*
- *I spoke to a counselor earlier on about the classes and what my child needed.*
- *She talked to a counselor because she wanted to get ahead.*
- *Because she is able to receive more information on the classes needed.*
- *To talk about graduating earlier and balance academics and extracurricular activities.*

- *I spoke to a counselor about his course load. We decided that it would be too much for him to take the geometry course this semester on top of 4 other online courses and his six classes at school.*
- *So she could receive advice as to whether she should enroll in Florida Virtual School.*
- *His counselor and teacher are wonderful in keeping in contact.*
- *When my child first started FLVS, we talked to some of the FLVS School Counselors for general advice.*

Please rate the level of technical problems experienced by your child in his/ her FLVS course(s).

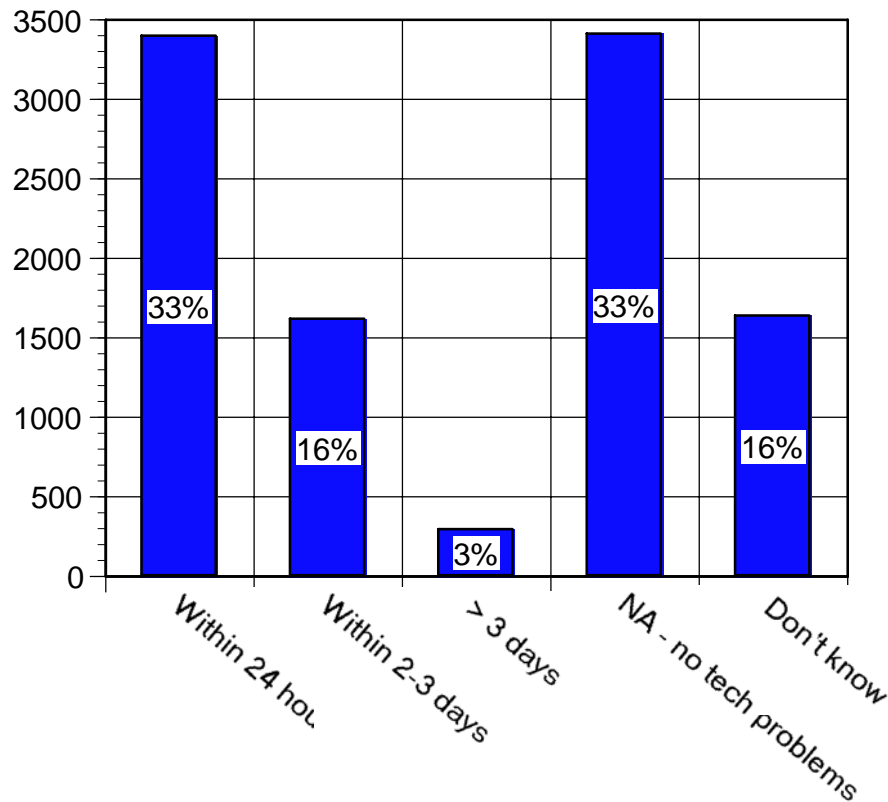


The vast majority of FLVS students experience little to no technical difficulties according to parents. Forty six percent (46%) of parents reported that their child never experienced technical problems when accessing their course. Thirty nine percent (39%) indicated that technical problems arose sometimes when their child logged on to FLVS. Examples of technical difficulties one may face include logging in, difficulty submitting assignments, and getting shut out in the middle of an exam. The comments below are from parents regarding technical issues experienced through FLVS.

- *We can not seem to access the Elluminate sessions whenever a teacher offers them. We just don't bother anymore.*
- *He has not had any technical problems with American History but in his English II class he had problems getting on the discussion board but I feel it was mostly due to the teacher.*

- *The only problem that we had was initially getting started. This wasn't really a technical problem with FLVS. I did have to pay someone to come to the home to set up my hardware/software so that everything was compatible with FLVS.*
- *Some of the pages that need to be open and have to have shockwave which is unavailable for her. After you get timed out of a course a little box appears to log back in but it doesn't allow her to log in. Then she has to close the window and start over.*
- *The only problems because of FLVS my child has is when the entire system is down and he cannot access his courses.*
- *On occasion he can't get into a web site, but between his teacher and technical support it is usually resolved fairly quickly.*
- *There was a time period where we had problems more often. We would get kicked out and try to go back in and it would not let use open assignments.*
- *My child has had problems with opening certain files on FLVS modules. He experienced just a few minor problems because of the type of internet connection that we have.*
- *They mostly involve being unable to access the website or links required for the coursework. Sometimes websites don't open when she clicks on them, or she will have problems submitting her work*
- *That was with her Chinese, the whole class at some point could not access their lessons. But that was fixed. So overall been very good and her father is our 'in house' computer master user.*
- *She has experienced Internet going down in the middle of a test, also not being able to access some information on certain assignments.*
- *Occasionally websites do not work.*
- *The windows close randomly and by themselves often.*

Most questions relating to technical problems are resolved:



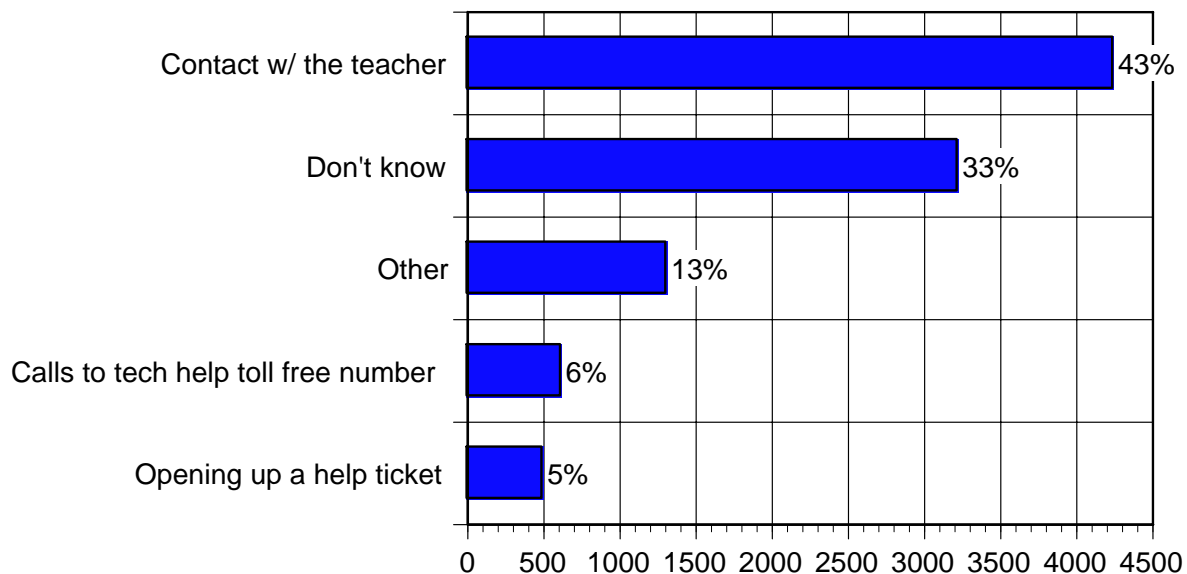
Thirty-three percent (33%) of respondents indicated that the technical problem experienced by their child was resolved within 24 hours. Thirty-three percent (33%) of parents indicated that their child never experienced technical problems while logging on to FLVS. For the number of students served by FLVS, it is quite an accomplishment that technical problems are non-existent for the majority, and that, when issues do arise, they are most often resolved within a 24-hour time period. Additionally, only 3% of parents indicated that it took longer than three days for FLVS to fix their child's technical problem.

- *Any little problem she had was resolved with the help of the teacher.*
- *Unable to access course, but remedied quickly. We had to set cookies way too low in order to access a great deal of FLVS course work.*
- *She only had one problem which was the exam disappeared, but her teacher was able to get it back.*
- *Mostly it was a learning how to use the system.*
- *The system has been down once for him.*
- *Sometimes the computer would freeze and we would to have a reset, but no major problems.*

Overall, FLVS parents seem very satisfied with FLVS technical support. The following quotes illustrate how efficiently their child's problems were resolved, and how most inconveniences with technology were minor.

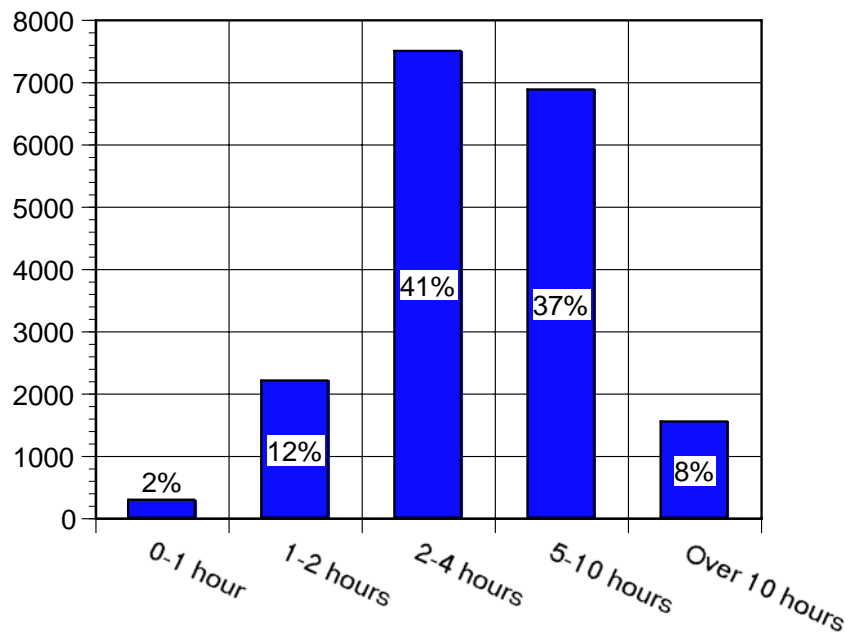
- *On occasion he can't get into a web site, but between his teacher and technical support it is usually resolved fairly quickly.*
- *We had a problem with cookies, one time. My husband spoke with someone and resolved the issue within an hour.*
- *We have had a couple of incidents of the pace chart jumping ahead an extra week, but the teachers adjusted the chart.*
- *That was with her Chinese, the whole class at some point could not access their lessons. But that was fixed. So overall been very good and her father is our 'in house' computer master user.*
- *Mainly my computer, none from FLVS.*
- *Sometimes my child cannot send in work so she calls her teachers for a step by step problem solving.*
- *A test wasn't resetting in Spanish and we couldn't go on. Technical support was great.*
- *Only once so far, not a big deal. The counselor was helpful in fixing the issue.*
- *As with any technology, there are been problems once in a while. They are usually resolved very quickly.*
- *My daughter had a few technical problems that were solved immediately. Lost email but was recovered by FLVS technical support. They did a great job.*

Most of my child's technical problems are resolved by:



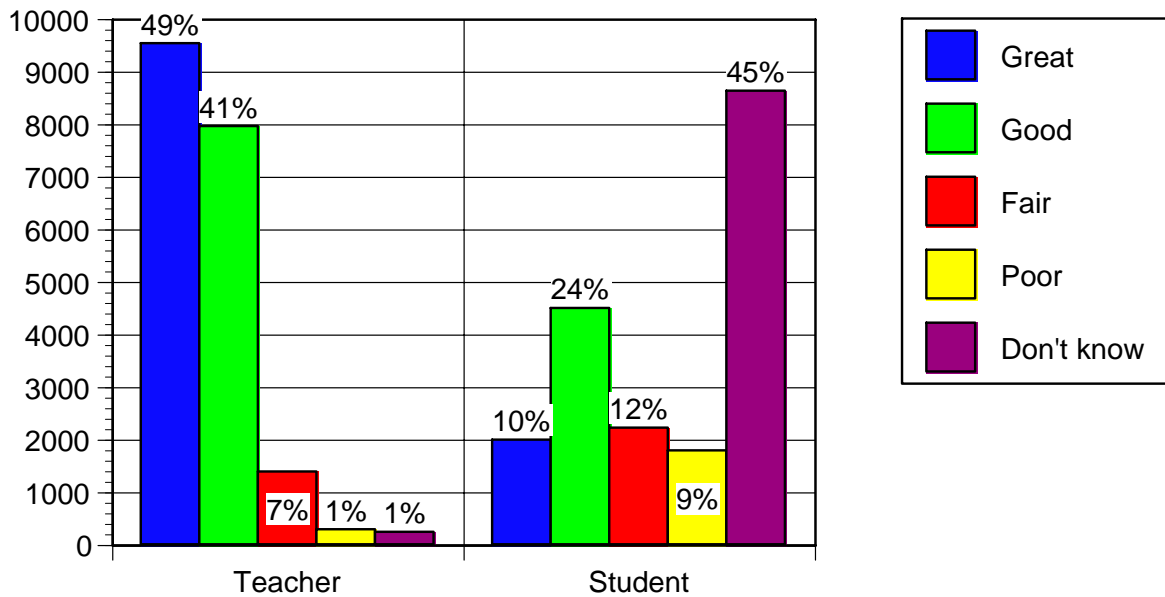
The following six graphs provide information on parents' feedback on their child's experience with their specific FLVS course. This information is also available to FLVS administrators in a disaggregated format in which administrators can see responses for specific teachers and courses. The open-ended responses are provided in the context of those teacher/course specific reports.

On average, the number of hours per week your child spends/ spent on this FLVS course is:



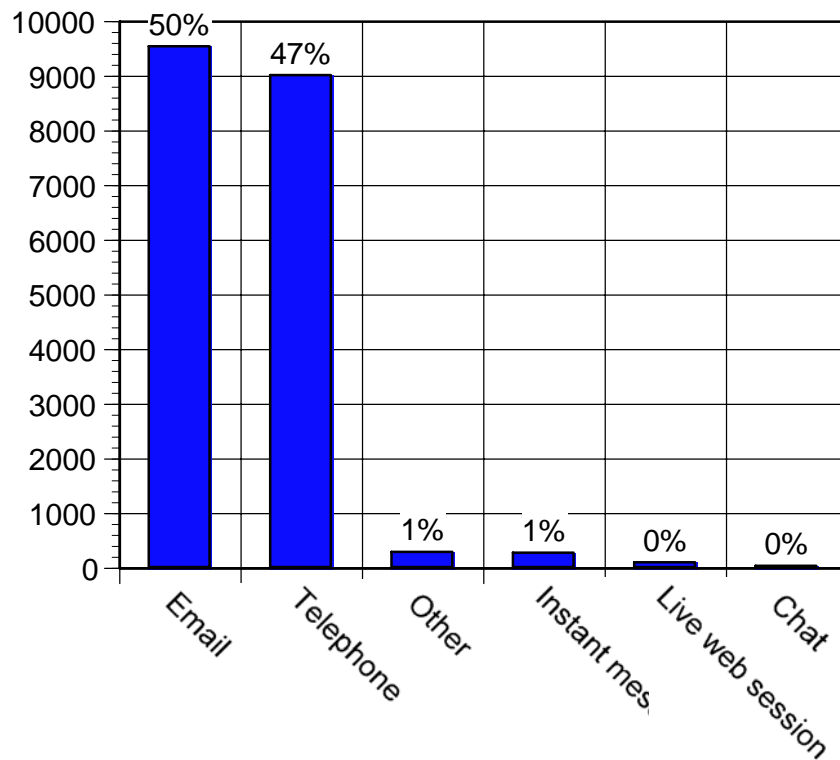
The majority of parents (41%) said that their child spent 2-4 hours on their online course per week, while 37% indicated that his/her child spent 5-10 hour per week. Another 12% of parent respondents said their child worked 1-2 hours, 8% said over ten hours per week, and 2% of parents reported that their child worked only 0-1 hour every week on FLVS.

Communication between your child and the teacher/ other students in the course is:



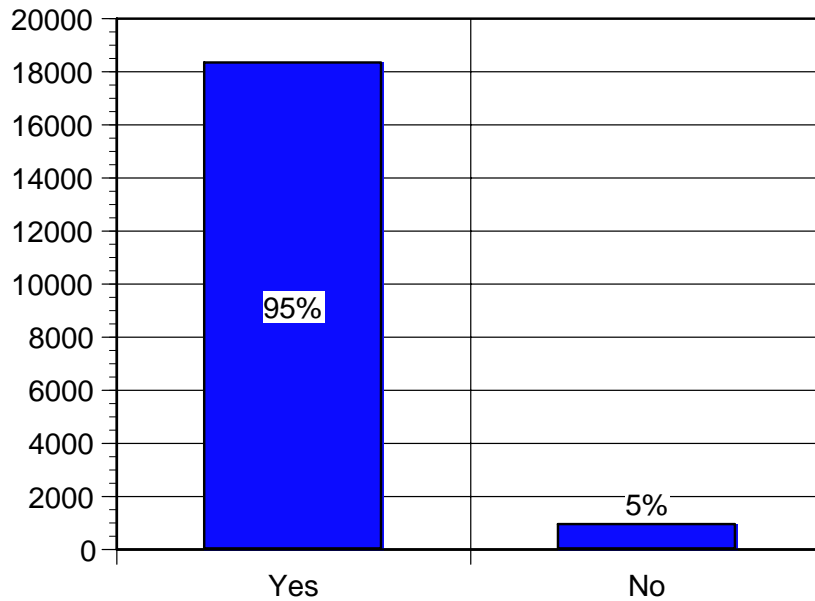
Parents give FLVS high marks when grading their child's communication with their FLVS teacher. Forty-nine percent (49%) of parents indicated that the communication between their child and his/her teacher was "great" and forty-one percent (41%) said that their child's relationship with his/her teacher was "good." When it comes to communication among classmates, parents were not as sure, and many (45%) said they didn't know about communication between their child and other students. Ten percent (10%) indicated that his/her child had "great" communication with classmates, 24% said it was "good," 12% rated the communication as "fair," and 9% said it was "poor."

What communication mode did you/your child find most helpful with this particular FLVS course and teacher?



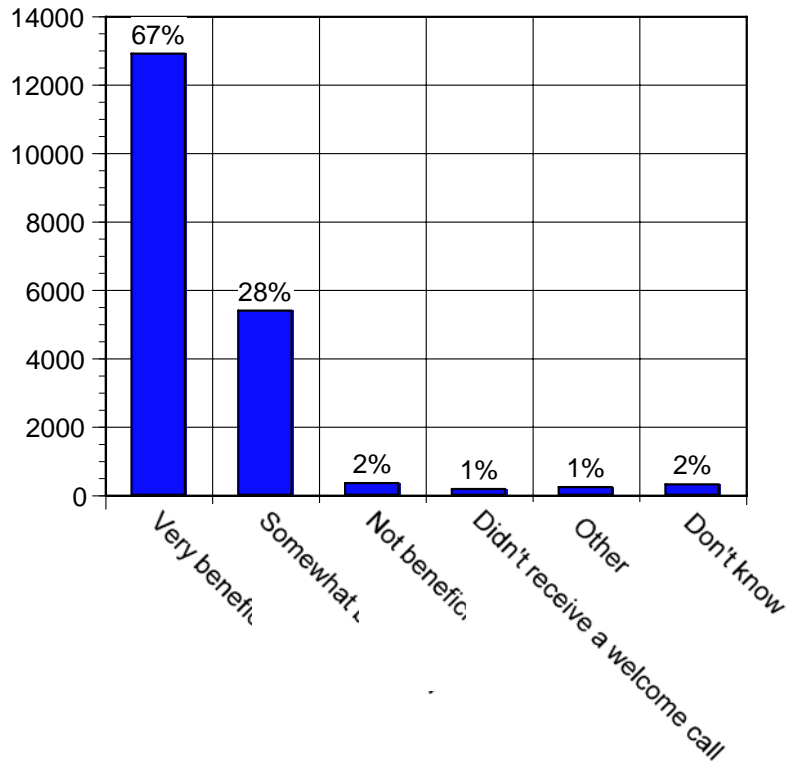
Most parents found that e-mail was their child's most useful form of communication with the FLVS instructor (50%). The telephone also seemed to be effective, with 47% of respondents indicating so. Other modes of communication, such as instant messaging, live web sessions, and chat are rated much lower than email and telephone on usefulness for communication. On a related note, FLVS teachers are required to talk to their students and parents via telephone monthly, and ninety-five percent (95%) of parents indicated that their child's teacher did, in fact, meet this requirement.

FLVS teachers are required to speak to FLVS students & parents once per month. Do you feel this expectation has been met?



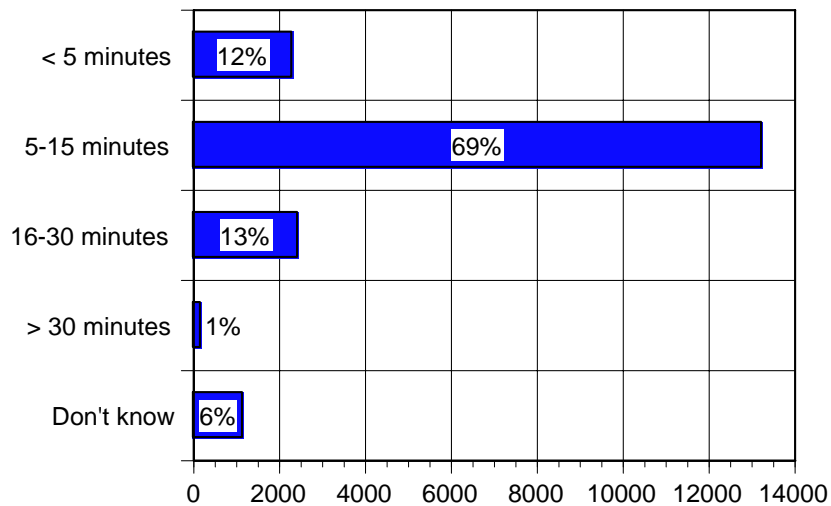
FLVS instructors make welcome calls at the beginning of the course to explain what is expected throughout the semester. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of parents said that they found the welcome calls to be “very beneficial”, while 28% said they found it “somewhat beneficial,” and only 2% said the welcome call was not helpful at all. One percent of parent respondents indicated they did not receive a welcome call.

How beneficial was the welcome call for this course?



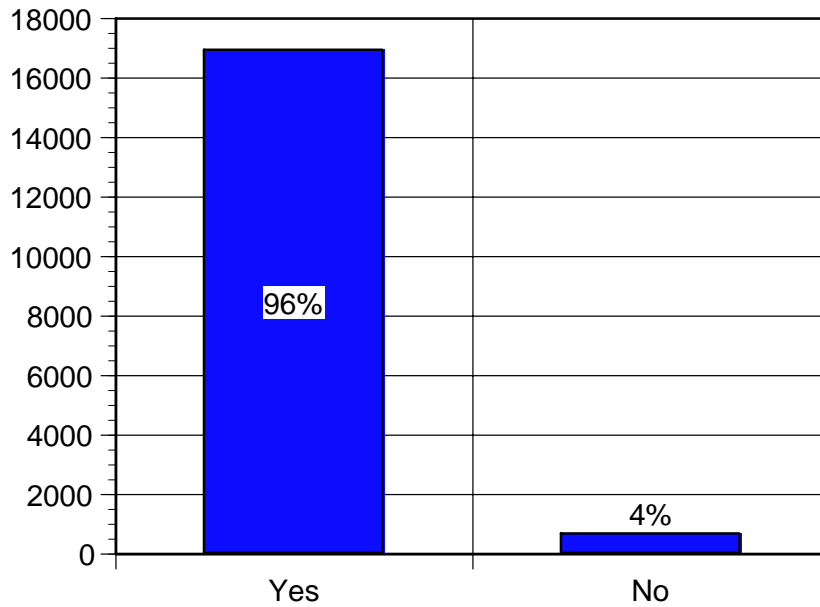
Welcome call lengths varied, but the majority of respondents indicated that the duration of their welcome call was 5-15 minutes (69%). Twelve percent (12%) of parents said that their call lasted under 5 minutes, while thirteen percent (13%) said that their correspondence was between 16-30 minutes.

How long was the welcome call for this course?

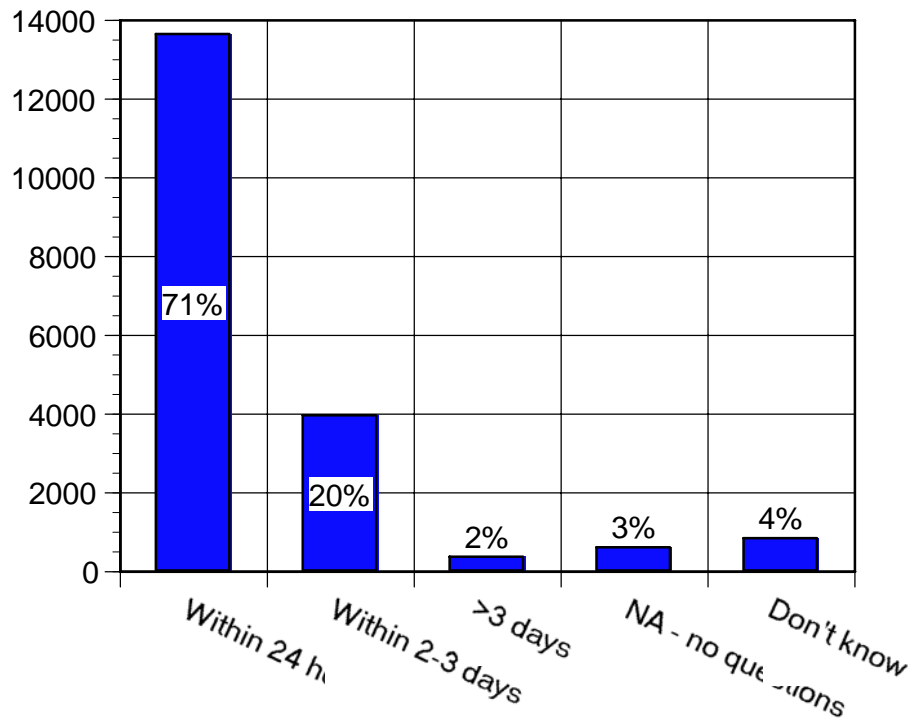


Ninety-six percent (96%) of parents indicated that their child's FLVS teacher showed a special interest in their child's success. This is a 4% increase from last year's response to this survey item, and provides evidence that FLVS teachers continue to provide high levels of support and dedication to their students. .

**This FLVS teacher has shown a special interest
in my child's success with FLVS.**

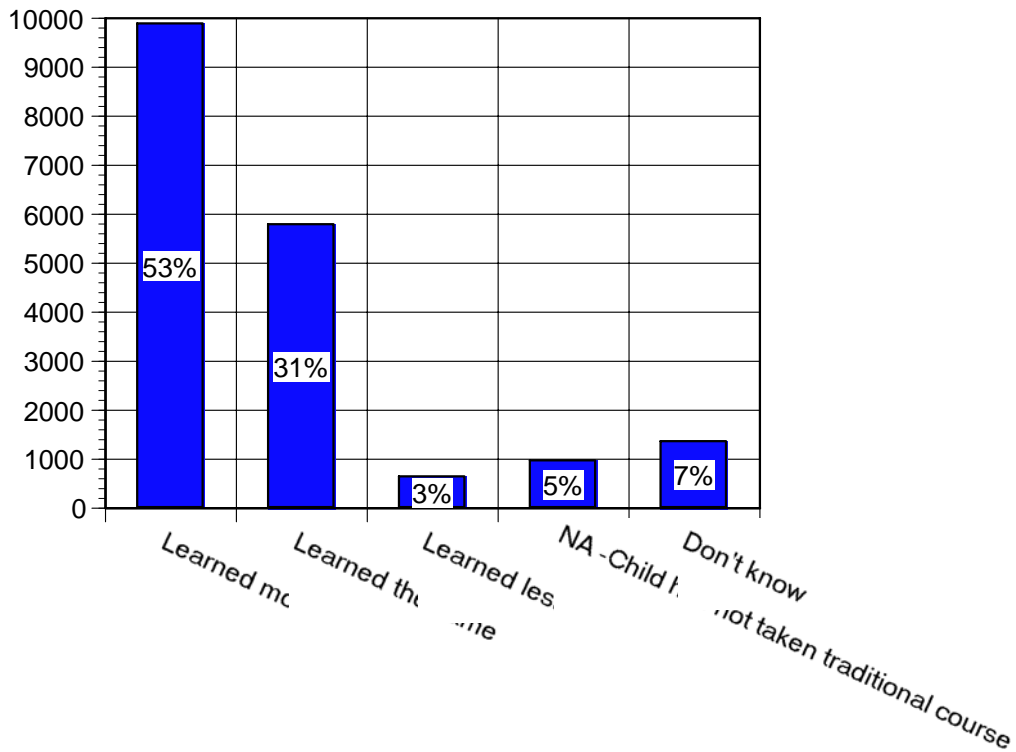


Most questions relating to course content or assignments are resolved:

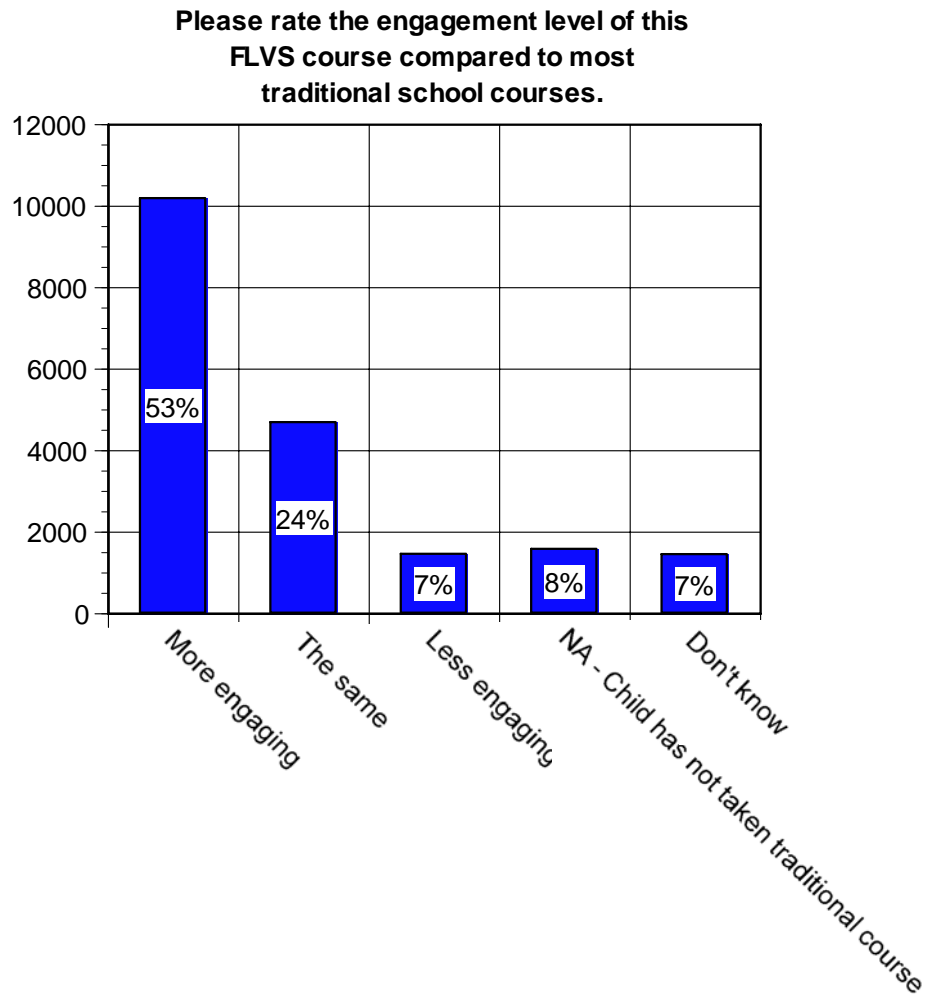


FLVS teachers' dedication to students is apparent when examining their response time to student concerns. According to parents, FLVS teachers are quick to respond to their students when a question or concern arises. Seventy-one percent (71%) indicated that their child's FLVS teacher responded to their child within 24 hours of a question being posed, while 20% said it was within 2-3 days, and only 2% of parents said it took the FLVS teacher to respond in a period greater than three days.

Please rate your child's learning experience in this FLVS course as compared to most traditional high school courses.

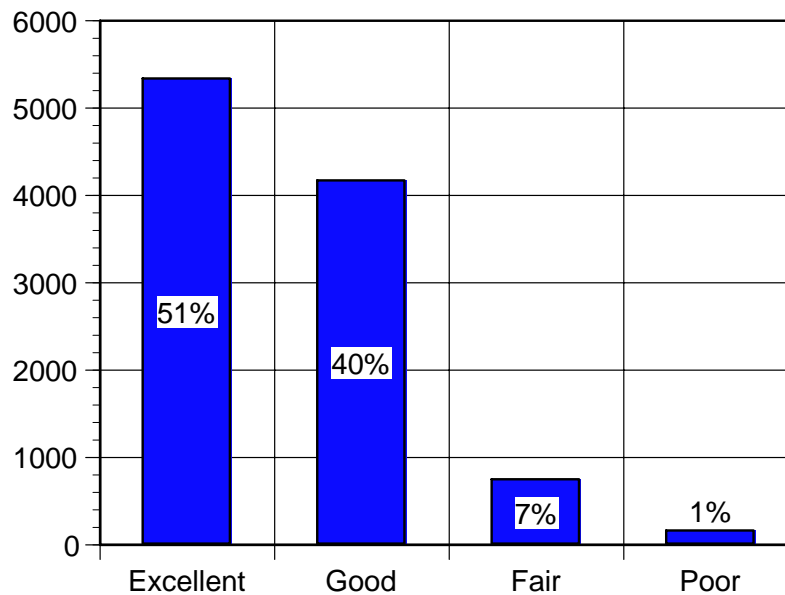


Parents of FLVS students seem satisfied with the online institution; 53% felt their student learned more via FLVS than in a traditional high school course. Thirty-one percent (31%) felt their child learned the same amount from FLVS as a traditional high school course, while only three percent (3%) felt their child learned less. There was a small percentage (5%) whose child had never taken a high school course, and therefore were unable to compare.



Engaging students also seems to be a priority for FLVS as fifty-three percent of parents indicated that their child's FLVS course was more engaging than a traditional high school course, and twenty-four percent (24%) thought it was comparable. Only a small percentage thought it was less engaging (7%), while 7% replied that they did not know, and 8% couldn't say because their child had never been involved with a traditional high school course.

**Please rate the quality of your child's
experience with FLVS**



FLVS receives high marks when it comes to the quality of their students' experience. Fifty-one percent of parents said that FLVS has provided an "excellent" experience, while forty percent (40%) indicated that his/her child has had a "good" experience. This was a slight shift from last year when 62% rated their child's experience as "excellent" and 31% responded with "good." The comments below illustrate the positive experience that the majority of parents had with FLVS. Parents are enthusiastic when they describe their child's progress with FLVS and give praise to the wonderful teachers who help them along.

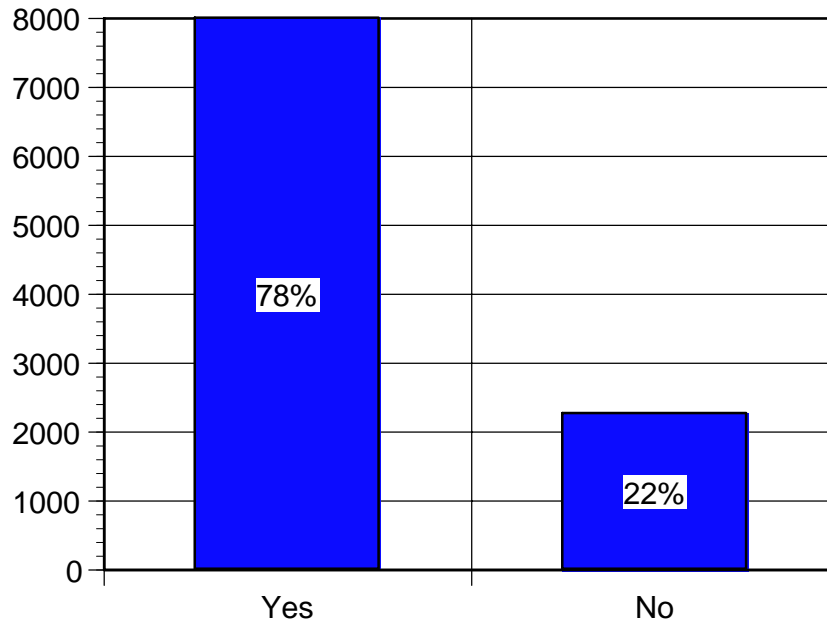
- *My child receives wonderful assistance from each of her instructors and she has had a greater opportunity to absorb course material from each of her classes than she would in a public school.*
- *I am very satisfied with the FLVS school system. Her grades have risen and she has skipped a grade. She is able to get her work done well and on time and receives much help from her FLVS instructors. When she calls them they always answer, and the course itself provides much practice to help her along.*
- *I can see that my child really enjoys her FLVS courses. With FLVS my child has more time to do activities such as karate, dance, writing, and poetry. Unlike traditional school FLVS does not take too much of Britni's time. She has more time for her family, herself, and, of course, her school work.*
- *The teachers are wonderful....we have had nothing but a good experience with all of the teachers in all of Joshua's classes. The classes are interesting and fun and keep Joshua's attention while helping him to learn.*
- *He is learning more than in a regular school in less time. The content of the courses has been very interesting for him.*

- *We love the positive attitude of ALL the teachers thus far. We've not met anyone yet who was unfriendly to us.*
- *The teacher's are great, the quality of the academics is top notch...we are very happy with it.*
- *They enjoy it very much, and seem to grasp the lessons more effectively.*
- *She has excellent grades and wonderful teachers that help her when she needs it.*
- *He can work at his own pace, and there no distractions like there are at school.*
- *The teachers are helpful and good with communication.*
- *She has a wonderful time, and she's getting better grades than she did while attending school.*
- *She takes her school work more seriously.*
- *There have never been any problems and I get the answers to all my questions within 24 hours.*
- *All forms of communication have been great through phone and email messages. It is a pleasure to work with the teachers that have been hired.*
- *She has done very well in her schooling with FLVS.*
- *Wonderful!!*
- *She loves it and the education she is receiving is excellent.*
- *She is getting work done at her own pace, and when she has problems she can contact her teacher.*

The following comments come from parents who were not as satisfied with their child's experience with FLVS. While only a small percentage were not as enthusiastic with FLVS, the comments below may offer some insight into what areas may need more attention.

- *The teacher and the work were fine. However the problems getting his work up to be graded were awful. He also had problems with the computers at school, mainly freezing up.*
- *A lot of technical problems. It was just stressful for him.*
- *She couldn't commit to her work without the motivation of a teacher she sees every day.*
- *My daughter has had a lot of technical difficulties. She had trouble trying to understand the instructions.*
- *For him, the lessons were helpful but he had trouble staying focused in the course.*
- *She had many problems understanding the text book online. It had no explanations and the examples were not helpful.*
- *I think the classroom is a better learning environment, but as far as online teaching goes, this was fine.*

Do FLVS course engage your family in the learning process?

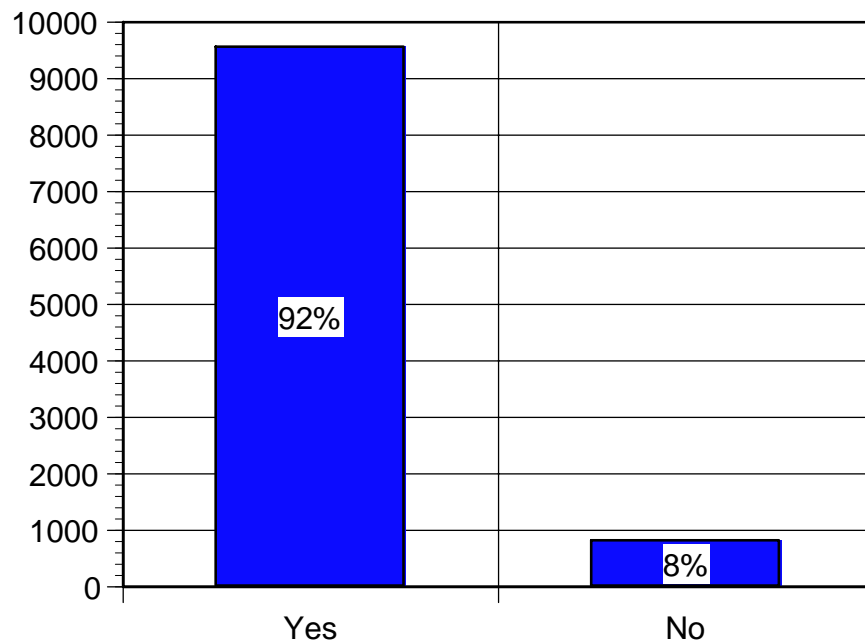


A vast majority of FLVS parents responded that their child's course engaged the whole family in the learning process. Monthly phone calls from the instructors as well as having access to their guardian accounts made it easy for parents to be involved with their child's learning experience. Field trips, science experiments, as well as conversations and interviews are included in select FLVS courses. Parents even commented on how FLVS taught them new information, and how it brought the whole family together to learn. The comments below illustrate the enthusiasm and gratitude parents have for FLVS.

- *Monthly calls help to keep me updated on my child's progress and teachers have always been friendly and helpful.*
- *Yes, because her father is able to help her with her classes.*
- *There are student activities that require interaction with the family.*
- *Katelyn has experiments and presentations that she shows us all the time.*
- *I am learning and getting to experience right along with my daughter. She tells everyone what she did in her classes.*
- *I can watch my child's progress in the course and see what he's doing. I sometimes work with him and try to understand the lessons.*
- *Yes, it creates an open door to discuss the contents of each subject and the responsibility of being accountable. Many assignments require feedback from parents, discussion topics for everyone, and interviews which help engage the whole family in the lessons.*
- *Requiring parents for welcome calls and monthly call keeps us involved and up to date on what our children are doing.*
- *We are elderly, well educated in our time. We have enjoyed reading the course work and think it is delightful the way the FLVS presents the courses.*

- *She often has activities in which she is asked to share with her parents and school counselors as well as activities where she has asked me questions pertaining to the assignment.*
- *When Emily needs help in an area, she shares with me. Also when she completes a project, Emily wants to show me what she has accomplished.*
- *We have been interviewed and surveyed by our student and teachers.*
- *The phone calls and emails open the door to communication between parent and child. The dashboard and its "running" average of your child's grade is helpful too.*
- *The teachers and counselors call and talk with us about the course work and the assignments as necessary.*
- *We have the opportunity to have our daughter talk with us about her assignments and we can follow along with what she is explaining. Parents are not normally encouraged to assist with traditional high school courses. Most often parents are discouraged from becoming involved. FLVS allows a parent to take an active role in their child's education.*
- *I am more aware of what is going on with my child's education because of my contact with her teacher. It feels like we're in the same room together on a regular basis.*
- *Yes, I have learned quite a lot myself when looking over the course curriculum.*

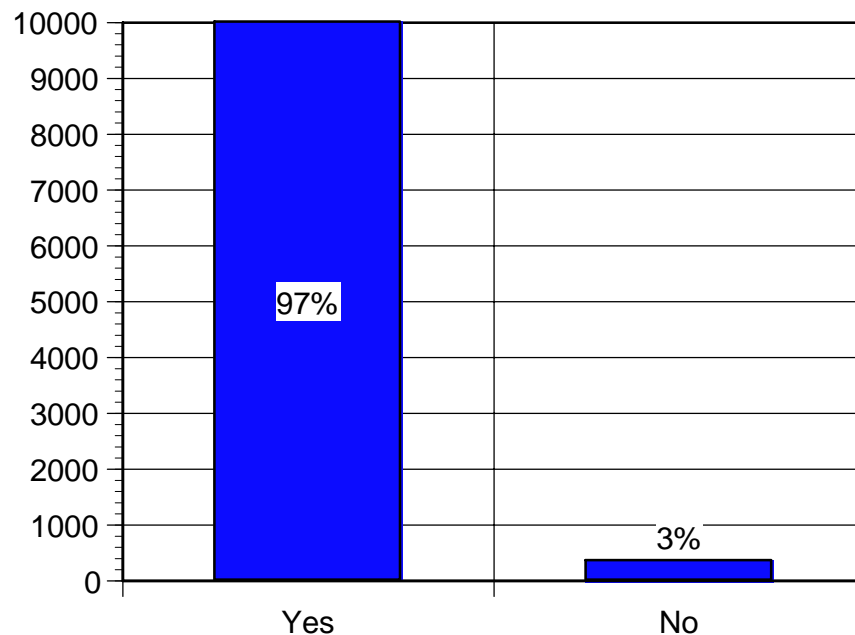
Would you encourage your child to participate in other FLVS courses?



A way of measuring satisfaction may possibly be determined by asking parents if they would consider enrolling their child in another FLVS course. Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondents indicated that they would indeed encourage their child to partake in another FLVS course. A small percentage (8%) responded “no.” The following comments were made by parents who were not satisfied enough to have their child enroll in another FLVS course. This group was much smaller than the majority of satisfied parents, and mostly pertains to the child that is not self motivated enough for an online course.

- *No, because she's too busy with school work that this is a little to much to handle.*
- *No, because it was hard to get the work done without there being a teacher there physically.*
- *No because it is too confusing for most people that are not good with computers.*
- *He is not very self motivated. He needs more structure.*
- *My daughter attends a private school and by the time she gets home to do the assignments on FLVS the assignments end up taking most of the night to complete. They are too long, so it is hard for her to keep up with the appropriate pace.*
- *I would probably not sign her up for another on-line course because of her difficulty with learning through that method.*
- *He has had a very hard time motivating himself to work at home.*
- *Once again, between school and online courses Erin has struggled with getting everything done in a timely manner.*
- *She does better in a classroom setting; would not "not" let her if she wanted to take an extra class or something, but her motivation is not up to par for online classes.*
- *No because he works better with books. It is hard to get him to stay on task.*
- *No, not while taking regular school courses, because it is too much to do both.*
- *My son Chase is not self-directed enough for this. My daughter Savannah is, and will take more courses from FLVS.*

Would you recommend FLVS to other parents?

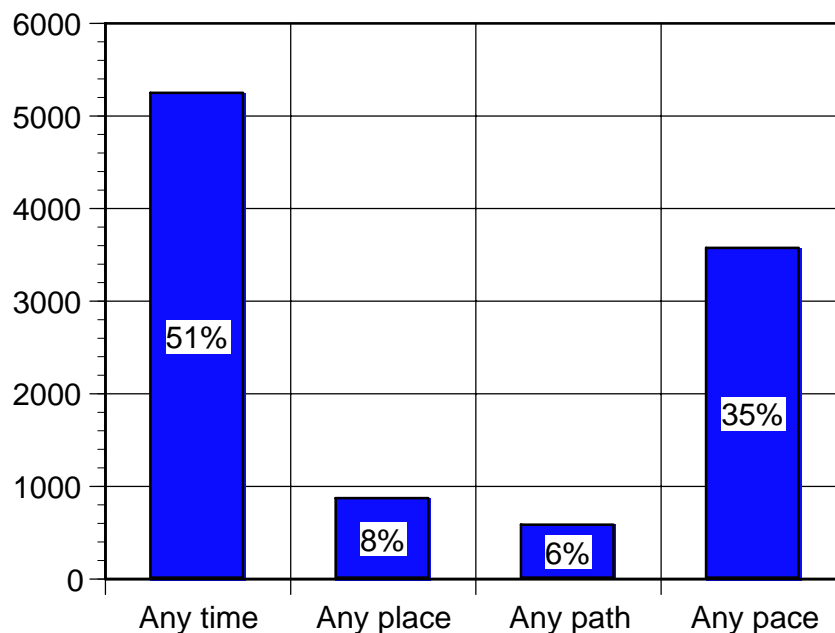


Almost all the respondents said they would recommend FLVS to other students (97%). Only three percent (3%) said they would not. However, several comments indicated that the virtual school option should only be recommended for self-motivated students. The following comments are from the majority who were very happy with FLVS and all it had to offer.

- *FLVS seems to allow students to focus on work without the hostile environment of a public school, and the course instructions of each class are wonderful.*
- *I think it is a great opportunity that every parent should be well aware of.*
- *It is a great tool for those of us that value our children's education and yet want that extra time with them.*
- *I have already told many parents about it and they are very happy with it.*
- *Yes, FLVS is a great alternative to main-stream schooling and other parents should really consider it if their kid(s) are interested in home schooling.*
- *FLVS is an excellent alternative option I want them to experience what my child is learning.*
- *FLVS has been great and we have never had any problems. She seems to make better grades with FLVS than in regular school as well.*
- *I would recommend FLVS to anyone that is interested in having their children do online school.*
- *Again, FLVS is a great enjoyment for me. I love how kids who use it can work on their own time without the teacher watching them at all times. It also allows him to be without the distractions at a regular school (though that was never a problem, I would mention it to other parents).*

- *I would recommend FLVS to other parents because I believe they are exceptionally high quality and would be beneficial to any student.*
- *The teachers are wonderful and the quality of the work is great. Everyone at FLVS is very helpful and encouraging.*
- *I would recommend FLVS to other parents because it is a good way for their kids to get an education.*
- *FLVS has been nothing but wonderful for my son and I. We have been able to talk more about his schoolwork and I can help him when he needs it more. Also, he has the flexibility to do his school work when he needs to.*
- *I have recommended it quite often due to the ease of enrollment and high level of commitment from teachers and staff.*

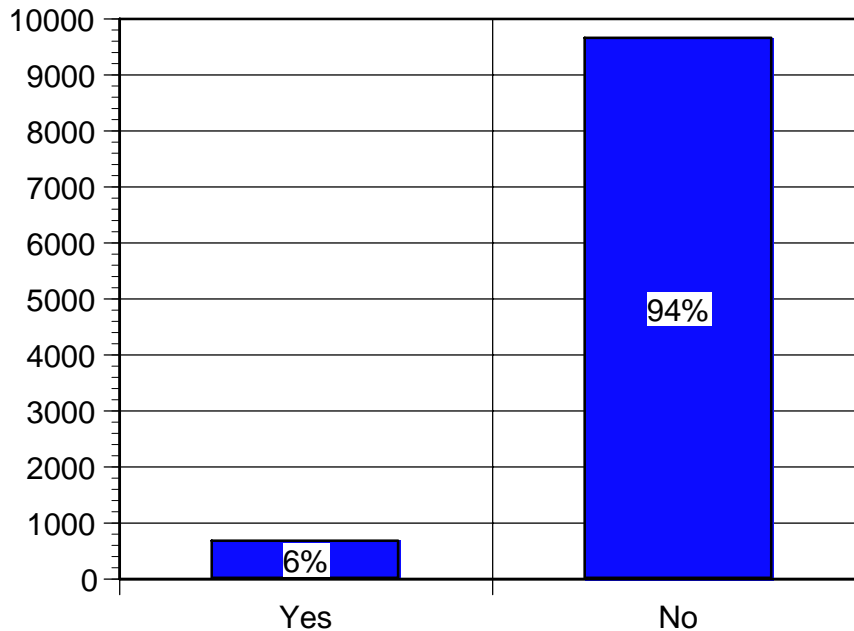
What part of the FLVS motto, "Any time, any place, any path, any pace," is most important for your child?



“Any time” seems to be the most important component according to FLVS parents (51%). Thirty-five percent indicated that “any pace” was most important to their child, however parent comments show that all components related to FLVS’ motto are significant. The remarks below even go as far as to suggest that this way of learning is the way of the future, and traditional schooling may be too archaic for the modern student. FLVS offers the flexibility with any time, any place, any path, and any pace for their students to learn on their own watch. It helps them improve their time management, as well as letting them absorb the knowledge in their choice of environment.

- *It is very important that it can be accessed at any point in time because I think it gives the students more freedom.*
- *She can work at her own pace which lessens any pressure and allows her to learn better.*
- *It is convenient for us to be able to school any time because of our hectic schedules.*
- *My son started home school because he finished work in school too fast and became very bored, but with FLVS he can work at his own pace.*
- *He travels a lot so the fact that he can access schoolwork anywhere.*
- *She has ADD, so she gets sidetracked a lot. She used to complain of not having enough time to finish assignments.*
- *She is a busy girl, and this makes it easy for her to work whenever she can, has the time.*
- *This year has been extremely difficult for my child in public school due to outside stress, and being at home make it easier to concentrate on what's most important.*
- *With our hectic schedules and all the other work she must complete, the ability to choose which days during the week and at what time she can work is the best.*
- *My family is very busy most of the time. With FLVS, my child has flexibility as to when he wants to do his schoolwork during the week.*
- *He can do it when he has time and won't feel stressed.*
- *All is important for her. That is why we selected FLVS.*
- *My daughter can work on her own schedule, at whatever time of day or day of the week she wants. This enables us to go on more trips and spend more time together, because her school hours are so flexible.*
- *She enjoys taking her time doing assignments and not being rushed.*
- *She has a hectic schedule and this helps her get the credits she needs, but on her own time. It also shows how responsible she is.*
- *Her back injury forces her to have to stand up and stretch frequently. So FLVS allows her to still finish her school work on time.*
- *With our large family, we have a need to be flexible with the time for our school day. Glen often submits work in the evening.*
- *He enjoys being able to access classes in the evenings and on weekends.*
- *My daughter has migraines and a few other health problems, so the fact that she can submit 3 to 4 assignments a week is perfect for her.*
- *My daughter has the flexibility to see her natural father more as he is out of state and her laptop goes with her. She also has the ability to visit other cities on trips and take her school work with her.*
- *My son is very busy since he has to travel 50 miles to school and is taking 8 classes in school plus three online classes, and he is engaged with math team, so when he falls behind on an online course, it is easier for him to catch up.*

Has your child experienced any school or district level barriers that have kept him/her from taking courses with FLVS?



Ninety-four percent of parents indicated they have not experienced barriers keeping their child from taking an FLVS course. The comments below show the challenges experienced during the enrollment process for the few who indicated they did run into difficulties. In many of these cases, FLVS was discouraged by school employees, which made parents have to take it up with their district office or students had difficulty having their guidance counselors at school sign off on their FLVS forms in a timely manner.

- *He wanted to take AP Language and Composition but his principal refused to approve it.*
- *We'd like to take more, but she has to take a certain number of classes on campus for school funding. It's a shame, because we'd like to take advantage of the wider variety of courses available through FLVS.*
- *The local school discourages taking any courses other than their own.*
- *My child's school counselor wouldn't approve of the classes unless my child was failing a course. I explained to the counselor that my child is only getting ahead and the counselor approved it, even though the book of rules said no.*
- *His guidance counselor felt it was too many classes for him to take. We are trying to persuade her otherwise. Seminole County has periodically tried to control the course or number of courses through their progression plan.*
- *We had to get approval through the school, then the county for taking a course online.*
- *Miami Dade County Schools discourage online courses. They do not think kids learn as much.*
- *Delay getting enrolled due to lack of information on how to do it with a umbrella school. But it was resolved in about 6 weeks.*

- *Collier County required her to be enrolled fulltime and attending classes at the neighborhood school in order to participate in FLVS. We entered the homeschool program after one semester.*
- *Sometimes the counselors at her school question what she wants to take. Occasionally the course she wants to take has little or nothing to do with academics, but more about what she's interested in.*
- *When we were first introduced to FLVS the high school counselor refused to enroll him in the appropriate 9th grade class. We had to go through the middle school principal.*
- *Support for FLVS has always been less than favorable at our high school.*
- *Not currently, but initially when I first became aware of the on-line program his school counselor was not supportive. I find that the instructors at FLVS are much more supportive and positive.*
- *The school and district were reluctant to allow my child to continue with his magnet school courses if his academic courses were all done with FLVS. However, an exception was made and we are grateful.*
- *In the past he was signed up for a summer class with FLVS but since we live in Marion County he was automatically transferred to MVS. They do not offer summer classes and subsequently his school year was dramatically affected.*
- *Public school kept delaying his courses and demanding he finish on their time table. It is an on-going issue.*
- *In signing up for spring classes, the district/school raised some issues, but we were able to resolve them.*

The best thing(s) about The Florida Virtual School:

Respondents had many fantastic things to say about FLVS, and below is a sample of the many positive comments received. It is quite remarkable to see this encouraging feedback when considering the diversity amongst FLVS students. This online institution offers an excellent education, with a new age twist that is appreciated by both students and parents.

- *He can work on his work anytime he needs to.*
- *That she can go on her own pace . Stephanie learns a lot better with FLVS.*
- *The ability to communicate with the teachers is easier than our public school system.*
- *My daughter has a week to do her assignments. And with a busy schedule it's very helpful.*
- *He is not rushed and does not have the distraction he has at public school. The communication between students, parents, and your staff. The best thing is that you can work anywhere at anytime.*
- *"Any time, any place, any path, any pace"*
- *The best thing is that she can work at her own pace and be at home, but also have the support of her family when she needs it most. I am really enjoying our experience in FLVS so far!!*

- *The structure of the classes has been great. Wes knows (and I know) exactly what must be done and when it must be done. I especially like the immediate feedback given for assignments, quizzes and tests. I think this has been a major factor in building up my child's self esteem and motivation to learn.*
- *It makes my child a lot more independent with her school work that she can have fun and do schoolwork, and still get great grades. She can school year-round when she schedules her classes right.*
- *The flexible and casual schedule, the fact that parents are e-mailed about any problems that occur in FLVS, and the teacher's helpfulness in any problems that may occur.*
- *The quality of learning.*
- *Access, availability, variety of offerings, fitting of different needs for students, allowing credit to be gained in the non-traditional school environment.*
- *The work ethic and encouragement for the students My child can proceed at her own pace and the work is interesting as well as challenging.*
- *The best thing about FLVS is the kindness of the teachers. They are understandable if the child is going through a hard time or needs help with an emergency situation.*
- *The best thing is that she can go online at anytime of the day or night.*
- *You have constant contact with teachers, and they are always there for your child if they need help. The teachers are very flexible with the pace. It's free for Florida residents!*

Recommendations for The Florida Virtual School:

For the most part, this survey item provided praise and gratitude for FLVS and everything the online school gives to students and families. As FLVS moves forward, there appear to be fewer recurring complaints and recommendations. More than anything, parents thank FLVS in this section and ask for an increase in public knowledge about this “amazing” program and all it has to offer.

- *Offer a wider range of classes. Keep up the nice work.*
- *Thank you for giving my child the opportunity to catch up on her work.*
- *None; you've done an excellent job!*
- *I wish you had an agreement with the local colleges with dual enrollment. My daughter has to go back to public school in order for her to do this. She wants to get her AA degree while in high school.*
- *We were completely ignorant of the availability of this free service in education by the State of Florida. There needs to be more publicity.*
- *I recommend you make it available as a public school, and let other parents know of you. I share my experience with other parents who have not fared well in the traditional setting.*
- *Keep hiring personable teachers that are informed and qualified. I would recommend The Florida Virtual School to anyone that is ready to learn and can stay on task to be able to complete their work.*

- *Open enrollment all year and/or instant enrollment without having to wait for classes to become available.*
- *Keep up the great work!*
- *This is the greatest thing ever. I wish it was around when I went to school. None at this point. We are very happy with the support, teacher and curriculum. I recommend all parents to enroll their child in the Florida Virtual School if the child is falling behind.*
- *Florida Virtual School needs not to change anything due to its advanced education quality*
- *I have recommended children always to take these courses. My home schooled friends are also getting involved.*
- *Anyone who needs it should look into this great program. It is worth your interest and it can further your child's education.*
- *I would recommend FLVS to other parents as it is easier than trying to get your child to summer school, especially for working parents. I also feel that Jessica has gotten more out of this course than she did in her high school and more than she would have in a 2 week summer school course, and she will be more prepared for Algebra II. Her instructor, Mrs. Myers has been wonderful and Jessica has formed a great bond with her.*

Conclusion

The 2007-2008 FLVS Parent Survey illustrates how FLVS continues on its path of providing exceptional education to its students. In its short time of operation, FLVS has gone from providing education to 77 students 11 years ago to approximately 100,000 students present day. Responses from parents regarding their child's relationship with their teacher, technical support, guidance counselor support, and overall quality of the course are overwhelmingly positive. From compiling the data received, it is evident that personnel from FLVS take their work seriously and are constantly trying to improve their institution. By continuously monitoring the progress they are making, FLVS continues to grow and offer the highest level of excellence in their unique method of teaching and learning.