

Legislators Challenged to Become Virtual Students

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The Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is taking a novel approach to bringing change to education -- inviting legislators to become students. This spring, FLVS is offering a mini-course providing elected officials with a first-hand look at the school's high-quality curriculum which includes individualized instruction and a proven approach to helping students achieve their educational goals.

"We know that improving the quality of education is a top priority for state and national leaders, and recognize there are many ways to achieve our various goals," said Bruce Friend, chief administrative officer for the Florida Virtual Schools initiative. "Our goal in developing this course is to introduce decision-makers to virtual learning. We encourage our nation's public policy makers to step into the shoes of today's students and experience an online course."

On the program's Web site, participants can either explore the FLVS curriculum or register for a mini-course facilitated by a certified FLVS instructor who provides students with feedback and support via phone, e-mail or online chat. Students can do the course on their own schedule -- 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All instruction is delivered via the Internet, providing participants a first-hand online student experience. Upon achievement of course requirements, participants receive a certificate of completion.

Alternatively, they may also register with FLVS to explore an American government course online without an instructor. This option enables elected officials to review the curriculum material for this course at their leisure, during a 2-week time period.