



Online school program pushed in Palm Beach County

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Real students. Real teachers. Virtual classrooms.

The [Palm Beach County](#) School District is pushing farther online by opening its first K-8 virtual school this year.

It will serve only 12 students, but this pilot effort will lay the groundwork for a more extensive K-12 virtual program required next year under a new state law, officials said.

"We intend to have a standalone, without-walls school," Superintendent [Art Johnson](#) told the School Board on Wednesday.

To participate, students must have a home computer, Internet access and a telephone to talk to their teachers. "There's a fair amount of engagement between the teacher and the student," said Debra Johnson, principal of the virtual school, who previously was principal of Don Estridge High Tech Middle School in [Boca Raton](#).

Marc Freeman