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Staples Foundation for Learning Awards \$15,000 Grant to Florida Virtual School

Funds Will Use to Increase Access to High Quality, Online FCAT Resources

Orlando, FL (August 21, 200) – Florida Virtual School, a state-wide virtual school providing free online instruction to middle and high school students, announced today a \$15,000 grant from the Staples Foundation for Learning. The grant will support the school’s efforts to provide students and educators with free, online FCAT resources and tools.

“One of the services we provide to all students across the state is access to high quality online content and courses,” said Julie Young, President and CEO of FLVS. “With the generous support from the Staples Foundation for Learning, we will continue our tradition by supporting teachers with an online FCAT program, giving educators online resources and materials to support their efforts to prepare students for the exam.”

“Staples Foundation for Learning is proud to support Florida Virtual School as they work hard to provide a phenomenal professional development program that truly impact the lives of young people throughout the state,” stated Joy Errico, Community Relations Supervisor for Staples.

For nearly five years, FLVS has served students and educators in all 67 school districts with free, unlimited access to the FLVS’ online FCAT materials designed to help students develop critical thinking skills and testing taking strategy exercises. The donation from the Staples Foundation for Learning, will allow FLVS to enrich and upgrade this program as well as to train educators on how to best use the FCAT resources to meet each student's needs in the 21st century global world.

About Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students throughout the country. A nationally recognized e-Learning model founded in 1997 FLVS was the country’s first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS serves middle and high school students with more than 80 courses. FLVS is

governed by an independent educational entity with a gubernatorial appointed board and is the only public school where funding is tied directly to student performance. Additional information can be found at www.flvs.net.

Staples Foundation for Learning

The mission of Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc. is to teach, train and inspire. Founded in 2002, the foundation has contributed \$7.5 million dollars to national and local charities that provide educational opportunities and job skills for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Staples Foundation for Learning has also developed lasting relationships with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Earth Force, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City. In 2006, Staples Foundation for Learning expanded its reach globally by teaming with Ashoka, an organization that develops and supports social entrepreneurs around the world. For more information about the foundation or how to apply for a grant, please visit www.staplesfoundation.org.

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