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**Online Students Perform Better than Peers According to New Study;  
Online School Saves Taxpayers**

*November 12 – 16 Marks First Annual National Distance Learning Week*

Orlando, FL – Leaders of Florida Virtual School (FLVS) are celebrating the first annual National Distance Learning Week on the heels of a comprehensive study issued by Florida TaxWatch about the efficacy and efficiency of the nation's leading online K-12 school.

Based on information from the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years, Florida TaxWatch found that FLVS students consistently outperform their counterparts in two critical areas: test scores and grades earned in courses. According to the report, FLVS students consistently earned higher grades, received better FCAT scores, and achieved higher marks on AP Exams.

Not only did FLVS students have higher academic achievements, but the TaxWatch study found the school's instructional approach to be more cost-efficient, saving Florida taxpayers roughly \$1,000 per student during the 2005-06 school year.

In a release issued on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Dominic M. Calabro, president and CEO of Florida TaxWatch said that "FLVS has proven itself to be a viable and innovative educational endeavor that works."

The TaxWatch report, "A Comprehensive Assessment of Florida Virtual School," looked at all factors around the success of FLVS students on FCAT scores, AP Exams, and in regular courses and suggested the success can be attributed to the quality of FLVS teachers as well as the school's instructional approach.

All FLVS teachers are subject-area certified with more than two-thirds (64 percent) holding advanced degrees and 76 credentialed by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Additionally, FLVS ties teacher performance to student performance making the school the only true performance-based education system in the state.

TaxWatch's full report is online at:  
<http://www.floridataxwatch.org/resources/pdf/110507FinalReportFLVS.pdf>

***About Florida Virtual School***

Florida Virtual School ([www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)) is a nationally recognized e-Learning model for developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students throughout the country. Founded in 1997 as a pilot

project, FLVS began course development with limited enrollment, pioneering Florida's first Internet-based, public high school—complete with online middle and high school curriculum.