

How Can We Discover Effective Strategies Invented by Online Teachers?

Reflections on a REL Southeast Report: *Exploring Teacher Influences on Student Success in an Online Biology Course*

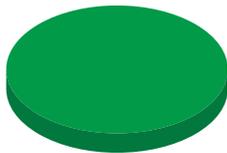
Can differences in teachers' styles and strategies affect student outcomes in a Florida Virtual School (FLVS) online biology course? In this study, we examined three student outcomes:

1. *End-of-Segment Exam Scores*
2. *Course Completion*: How many of a teacher's students who start a course finish the course?
3. *Time to Completion*: How quickly do a teacher's students finish the course?



Summary of the Study

First, we determined how much variation across the students of different teachers exists on these measures.



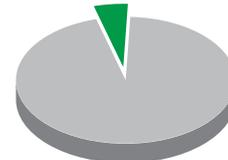
Total variation

Second, we determined how much of this variation might be caused by differences in students' characteristics.



% of differences attributable to students

Finally, we concluded that the remaining variation could be caused by differences in their teachers' styles and strategies.



% of differences attributable to teachers

Main Findings

End-of-Segment Exam Scores: Very little variation in these scores appears to stem from differences in teachers' styles and strategies.

Course Completion: A small amount (1.5%) of the variation in students' course completion rates may be coming from differences in teachers' styles and strategies.

Time to Completion: This outcome showed the most influence that could be attributed to teachers. About 4.2% of the differences in students' time to completion may be coming from differences in teachers' styles and strategies.

Select for more info.

The Story Behind the Study

Listen to a discussion between FLVS and REL Southeast researchers about the adventure of this study! Hear how the findings and new reflections from the COVID-19 pandemic are shaping our thoughts about next steps.

We want to hear from teachers! If you would like to share any thoughts about this study, or have questions you think we should pursue in future research, visit the REL Southeast [FLVS Partnership on Student Success in Online Learning](#) partnership page.