

6A-6.0981 Provider Approval for Virtual Instruction Program.

(1) Purpose. Section 1002.45, F.S., requires each school district to provide eligible students within its boundaries the option to participate in a virtual instruction program. The Department of Education will provide school districts and virtual charter schools annually with a list of providers approved to offer virtual instruction programs under this section of law.

(2) Application Form. Form VSP-02, Virtual Instruction Program Application for Provider Approval (<http://www.flrules.com/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-00656>) for becoming an approved provider for the Virtual Instruction Program, will be used for those virtual education providers applying for approved status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-02 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective December 20, 2011. Form VSP-02 will be published electronically at www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp. A hard copy may be obtained by contacting the Division of Public Schools, Office of the Chancellor, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(3) Application. The application to become an approved provider will be available beginning October 1 of each year for the following school year. The deadline for filing the application is October 31.

(a) The applicant will disclose on a prominent place on its website the disclosure information required under Section 1002.45(2)(a)7., F.S.

(b) In accordance with Section 1002.45(2)(a)5., F.S., the applicant must be accredited by at least one of the following K-12 regional accrediting agencies, their successors or assigns: AdvancED, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary Schools and Commission on Secondary Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Northwest Accreditation Commission, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

(4) The Department of Education will review each application and provide the applicant with a written decision regarding the approval or denial of the application no later than forty-five (45) calendar days after the deadline. Approved providers will be posted to the website: www.fldoe.org/Schools/virtual-schools/DistrictVIP.asp. The approval is valid for the following three (3) school years.

(5) Notice of Denial. If the application is denied, the applicant will receive written notification identifying the specific areas of deficiency. The applicant shall have forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the notice of denial to resolve any outstanding issues, and resubmit its application for reconsideration. The applicant will receive a final notice of approval or denial. If an application is denied a second time, the Department of Education will provide a final written notice to the provider indicating that the application has been administratively closed and that the provider may apply during the next application phase in accordance with subsection (3) of this rule.

(6) Revocation. The Department shall revoke the approval of a provider who fails to comply with all the requirements of Section 1002.45, F.S.

Rulemaking Authority 1002.45(11) FS. Law Implemented 1002.45 FS. History--New 11-26-08, Amended 10-21-09, 3-20-11, 12-20-11.