

Tennessee State Profile

The Tennessee Education Technology Association, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.

Updated February 2024

Tennessee has multi-district fully online schools and a significant number of district programs. Tennessee does not have a state virtual school.

There are 58 approved virtual programs for the 2023-24 SY. In SY 2021-22 there were 57 approved public virtual schools across 49 LEAs, a 103% increase from 28 schools across 25 LEAs during the 2020-21 SY. Local boards of education approve the opening of new virtual schools or the expansion of an existing program. All approved multi- and single-district online schools are listed by the [Tennessee Department of Education](#).

State virtual school?	NO
Multi-district fully online schools?	YES
State approval process for online providers?	NO
State approval process for online courses?	NO

The following illustrates the impact of the pandemic on the virtual charter school student enrollment.

- 3,778 students in SY 2019-20
- 10,581 students in SY 2020-21
- 11,685 students in SY 2021-22
- 12,653 students in SY 2022-23

The Department of Education publishes an [annual report](#) on virtual education each July.

District virtual school programs include:

- [iLearn Institute](#) at Lenoir City Schools offers full-time options for grades K-12.
- Knox County School District's [Virtual Schools](#) offer full-time options for students in grades 1-12.
- [Memphis Virtual School](#) (MVS) serves students grades 4-12. MVS offers a variety of electives, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and College, Career Technical Education (CCTE) courses in addition to the core subjects.

- [Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools](#) (MNPS) Virtual School serves grades 4-12.
- [Tennessee Online Public School](#) (TOPS) is a multi-district public online school offering K-12 options. High school and middle school are part of the Bristol School District, and elementary is in partnership with the Bristol and Greeneville districts.
- [Putnam County VITAL](#) currently offers options for grades 3-12 for students residing in Putnam County.

In the spring of 2022, the Tennessee Educational Technology Association (TETA) joined the DLC as an [affiliate member](#) and launched Tennessee's first Digital Learning Network. The TETA [Digital Learning Network](#) is led by a ten-member advisory team composed of virtual school principals across the three grand regions of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Education launched the [AP Access for ALL](#) program during the 2021-22 SY in partnership with [Niswonger Online](#). Funded through a \$10M grant from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR) Fund and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, the AP Access for ALL program was designed to help more students earn college credit while in high school.

State Policies

[SB 382](#) (2023) renews Virtual Public Schools Act and eliminates the sunset provision making the language permitting virtual schools permanent.

Tennessee established [rules](#) for Education Savings Accounts in 2020.

Tennessee State Board Rule: [0520-01-03-.05](#) (2022) defines a public virtual school and establishes rules for creating and managing virtual schools in Tennessee, including days of instruction, teacher training and review, annual program evaluation, student participation and attendance, and more.

The earlier Virtual Public Schools Act, Tennessee Code [Annotated §§49-16-201 through 216](#), remains in effect until June 30, 2023.

[DLC State Profile Key Terms](#)