

Michigan State Profile

Michigan Virtual, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.

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Michigan has extensive digital learning activity, including multi-district fully online schools, a large state virtual school, single-district programs, consortia and some hybrid learning programs.

There were 94 public schools that enrolled 52,198 students full-time during the 2021-22 SY. Public school academies (PSA), commonly known nationally as virtual charter schools, do not have a resident district and enroll students from across the state. There were 17 PSA cyber charter schools that accounted for 27,149 of the 2021-22 SY student enrollments. Data for the 2022-23 SY will be available in April 2024.

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

[Michigan Virtual](#) is the state virtual school and served over 19,000 students in SY 2021-22. These students generated over 43,294 course enrollments in online courses taught by Michigan Virtual instructors. There was an additional 2,565 enrollments in online courses taught by local district teachers using Michigan Virtual technology and content. About 58% of Michigan LEAs used Michigan Virtual for student courses during the 2021-22 SY.

Michigan Virtual provides a broader range of services than many state virtual schools. In addition to providing online courses, Michigan Virtual provides significant [professional learning](#) to educators across the state. Michigan Virtual delivered over 133,000 course enrollments to more than 48,000 learners across nearly 300 courses through its [professional learning](#) portal in 2021-22.

Michigan Virtual is also home to the [Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute](#) (MVLRI). The Institute, formed in 2012, expands Michigan's capacity to support new learning models, conducts research to inform new policies in online and blended learning and supports the state's infrastructures for sharing best practices.

Michigan Virtual authors an [annual effectiveness report](#) highlighting enrollment totals, completion rates, and the overall impact of virtual courses on K–12 students in the state. The 2021-22 report noted that over 208,000 students took at least one virtual course in SY 2021-22. Of the 1,914 schools with virtual enrollments, 57% had 100 or more virtual enrollments. Part-time students accounted for 64% of virtual enrollments while full-time accounted for 36%.

[Section 21f](#) of the State School Aid Act allows public school students in grades 6-12 to take up to two online courses per academic term. This does not include full-time cyber school students who are not limited in their online courses. Michigan Virtual developed and maintains the [Michigan Online Course Catalog](#) to provide access to supplemental online courses for students statewide. Eleven districts advertised statewide online courses through the *micourses* website with an additional eight districts listing courses available only to their in-district students. Of the statewide course offerings, content came from 16 different providers with the majority being third-party providers. In SY 2021-22, nearly 159,000 students enrolled in supplemental or part-time virtual courses. The state does not play an approval role for online courses. However, courses offered through the Online Course Catalog require a district, ISD, PSA, or Michigan Virtual to put the course into the catalog, which serves as a form of approval.

The variety of online programs in Michigan include:

- A large consortium program, [GenNET Online Learning](#), is operated by the Genesee ISD. GenNET provides both instructor-led online courses and others without an instructor. There are [10 providers](#) to the GenNET course catalog.
- [MySchool@Kent](#), part of the Kent Intermediate School District (ISD) in the Grand Rapids area, is a hybrid online school that serves both original credit and credit recovery students supported by both an online instructor and a teacher in a face-to-face setting. Students meet with onsite teachers at least twice a week.
- [Jenison International Academy](#) offers online and blended learning, consisting of two school entities through Jenison Public Schools. Established in 2011, [JIA secondary school](#) provides options for students in grades 6-12 that include online courses designed and developed by Jenison teachers. All students have the option to “split-schedule” with traditional courses at Jenison High School, technology center, college dual enrollment, work-based learning, and have access to optional learning experiences within their online elective courses. Additionally, [JIA Elementary](#) students in grades K-5 engage in a mastery-based digital curriculum, and are provided optional learning experiences through on-campus enrichment that focuses on STEM and project-based learning two and a half days per week.
- [Gull Lake Virtual Partnership](#) (GLVP) is a program of Gull Lake Community Schools, available to all students residing within Kalamazoo County and all school districts contiguous to the county. The GLVP was established in 2010. The GLVP served 1,069 K-13 full- and part-time students during the 2021-22 school year: 438 elementary school, 252 middle school, and 379 high school. GLVP is a fully online asynchronous program. Students also have opportunities to apply and extend their learning through a variety of optional activities at home and in the community.

State Policies

State School Aid bill (July 2023) capped cyber school funding at 2023 levels while providing all other public schools an increase in per pupil funding.

In 2020, the Michigan legislature passed three bills to address ramifications of the pandemic, several of which had direct or indirect impact on digital learning.

[HB5911](#) (2020) amended the State School Aid Act to specify that the requirements and prohibitions of the Aid Act concerning virtual courses would not apply to virtual courses offered as part of pandemic learning.

[HB5912](#) (2020) amended the State School Aid Act, among other provisions, waived the minimum number of hours and days of pupil instruction for the 2020-21 school year only, and instead require districts to provide pupil instruction that resulted in a number of hours and days necessary to deliver the educational or course content that would have been delivered in 180 days of a school year.

[HB5913](#) (2020), defined “pandemic learning”, “pupils engaged in pandemic learning for fall 2020”, and “pupils engaged in pandemic learning for spring 2021”, to allow pupils to be counted in membership if instruction occurred in person, virtually, or some combination of these, and it specified that the proposed requirements for an extended COVID-19 learning plan would not apply to a district that operated as a cyber school.

For a complete summary of the provisions in the three bills see the Senate Fiscal Agency [summary](#).

Michigan was the first state in the country to require on online experience for graduation.

[*DLC State Profile Key Terms*](#)