

South Carolina State Profile

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

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South Carolina has a large state virtual school (VirtualSC), multi-district online charter schools, several significant district programs and at least one consortium. VirtualSC served 58,573 course enrollments in SY 2022–23 after providing 57,837 course enrollments during the 2021-22 SY. Seven multi-district online charter schools enrolled 17,601 students in SY 2022-23. The following illustrates the impact of the pandemic on the virtual charter school student enrollment.

- 11,257 students in SY 2019-20
- 16,050 students in SY 2020-21
- 16,358 students in SY 2021-22
- 17,601 students in SY 2022-23

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

South Carolina is one of the few states where full-time enrollments have increased during the 2022-23 SY after the peak pandemic years. There are no enrollment limits for fully online schools in South Carolina under state law.

In addition to VirtualSC's direct course enrollments, it also offers a robust franchise program to districts and schools across the state. The [VirtualSC Franchise Program](#) provides standards-aligned course content, course technology, training and support to district franchisees. The district provides the program management and online teachers. The franchise program served 15,617 course enrollments during the 2022-23 SY.

VirtualSC offers a blended learning [Virtual Learning Lab](#) program to provide an interactive online learning solution for schools that may have limited abilities to offer courses due to staffing issues. Students work on a virtual course in a lab setting, while a course facilitator at the school monitors students and provides classroom management. Instruction is provided both synchronously and asynchronously by the VirtualSC teacher and through the online course.

Some districts with online programs of note include:

- Horry County School District has a district-wide personalized digital learning initiative through [HCS Virtual](#), offering supplemental course options.
- Greenville Public Schools' [GCS Virtual](#) provides a full-time online option for students in grades K-12 and supplemental online courses for grades 7-12.
- [Pickens County Virtual Academy](#) offers full-time online learning for district students grades K–12.

The [Low Country Education Consortium](#) collaborates with school district members to develop and implement virtual learning that includes a K-8 full-time online program and supplemental online courses for grades 9-12. The Consortium also provides online learning technical assistance and training to districts.

State Policies

No major legislation impacting online and/or blended learning was passed January through August 2023.

The SC legislature passed a proviso temporarily impacting online learning in 2021 that was renewed in 2023 (provisos require an annual approval to remain in effect). The proviso allows school districts to offer a virtual education program for up to five percent of its student population without impacting any state funding. School districts submit their plans for the virtual program to the State Board of Education for approval. As a result of the proviso, the SC Department of Education approved [51 virtual programs](#) for operation. It is uncertain how many of these virtual programs will remain active during the 2022-23 SY.

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