



Virtual Schools of The South Carolina Public Charter School District

Superintendent Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.
3710 Forest Drive, Suite 201
Columbia, SC 29204

803-734-8322

www.sccharter.org

Overview of Our Virtual Schools

In addition to our six public brick and mortar schools, we have five public virtual schools with over 8,500 students. These schools are listed below, and all of them serve the entire state. More information can be found at www.sccharter.org.

<i>Our Virtual Schools</i>	<i>Grades Served</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
SC Connections Academy	K-12	803-212-4712
SC Virtual Charter School	K-12	803-253-6222
Provost Academy	9-12	803-735-9110
Palmetto State E-cademy	9-12	803-227-6670
SC Calvert Academy	K-8	803-462-0254
SC Whitmore School	9-12	866-476-6416

Guidelines Regarding Student Transfers to a Public Virtual Charter School

We are delighted that so many of our parents are selecting a public virtual charter school as their school of choice, but virtual learning is still a new concept. Many people often have questions about virtual learning. Below are some guidelines for public school employees, parents, and students regarding public virtual charter schools.

Instruction and Curriculum

- A certified teacher works with every student to monitor assignments and interact with students.
- All public school courses are offered through online learning, providing a huge number of course options.
- All South Carolina graduation requirements can be met through online learning.
- The lessons are well-defined and researched with clear objectives, but they are not always teacher-centered.
- Each student is responsible for learning based on state and national standards.
- Each student takes all of the state-required assessments in person.
- Student attendance requirements are roughly the same as for traditional schools.

Potential Advantages

- Students in a virtual class, are, by definition, highly engaged in the learning process.
- Many students are familiar and comfortable with online technology and are doing well in this environment.
- Most of the course work can be done in a flexible time frame, and the pace is easily adaptable to the student.
- Some students are better suited for online learning as opposed to the traditional classroom.
- The frequent monitoring in public virtual schools can often help many types of learners.

Important Things to Consider

- There must be a “learning coach” available to the student (for example, a parent).
- There is very little face to face contact with a teacher or with other students.
- Each student must have access to a computer and to the internet on a regular basis.
- Many students say that virtual classes take more time and self-direction compared with traditional classes.

Current Challenges Facing Online Virtual Public Charter Schools in South Carolina

- A huge number of students drop out of virtual public charter schools within a few days.
- Many students and parents do not understand the nature and methods of online learning.
- Teacher training for virtual education in South Carolina is good but could be better.

These schools are not for all students, and our tremendous growth has included some students who should not have been directed by public school employees toward online learning for a variety of reasons. When advising a student or a parent, please remember that the over-arching consideration should always be to create conditions that are most favorable for securing long-term academic success for that student.