

Massachusetts State Profile

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

Updated September 2023

Massachusetts has two multi-district fully online schools and a few supplemental options for students through their home districts. VHS Learning, a consortium of school and district members from Massachusetts and across the country, served 6,717 supplemental course enrollments across the state during the 2022-23 SY.

[TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School](#) had 2,940 student enrollments in the 2022-23 SY. [Greater Commonwealth Virtual School](#) had 1,155 student enrollments in SY 2022-23 SY.

Both serve students K-12. The Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE) publishes commonwealth virtual schools [accountability reports](#).

The state allows [Single District Virtual Schools](#) (SDVS) that only enroll students who live in the single school district operating the virtual school. For the 2023-24 SY, eight SDVS will be operating, with one closing and two new SDVS opening.

- [Attleboro Virtual Academy](#)
- [Brockton Virtual Learning Academy](#)
- [Chelsea Virtual Learning Academy](#)
- [Leominster Personalized Virtual Learning Academy](#) (LPVLA)
- [Peabody Personalized Remote Education Program](#) (Peabody P.R.E.P.)
- [Taunton Public Virtual Academy](#) (TPVA)
- [The Springfield Virtual School](#)
- [Westfield Virtual School](#)

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

While SDVS do not follow the same process as multi-district fully online schools, there are certain requirements ([G.L. c. 71, § 94\(s\)](#)) that do apply.

The DESE is partnering with VHS Learning to create the [STEM Advanced Placement Access Expansion Opportunity](#) (SAPAO) program, a statewide initiative to provide online access to advanced coursework in STEM subjects at no cost to schools and students. DESE also provides access to a limited number of non-credit [online courses and activities](#) for student enrichment through EverFi, including digital citizenship.

State Policies

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

Online schools operate under “An Act Establishing Commonwealth Virtual Schools” ([H4274/Chapter 379](#)) which was approved by the legislature in January 2013, providing a framework for online and supplemental K–12 educational opportunities for students. It defined “[Commonwealth virtual school](#)” as a public school operated by a board of trustees whose teachers primarily teach from a remote location using the Internet or other computer-based methods, and whose students are not required to be located at the physical premises of the school.

The state does not have an approval process for online providers but must approve statewide virtual schools.

[DLC State Profile Key Terms](#)