

Ohio State Profile

The Ohio Department of Education, a DLC State Affiliate, was instrumental in conducting the research for this profile.

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Ohio has multi- and single-district fully online schools referred to as e-schools. [E-schools](#) are part of the broader group of charter schools referred to in Ohio as community schools. There is district and consortia activity, but no state virtual school.

Ohio had 16 e-schools that enrolled 32,373 fully online students in SY 2022-23. The largest statewide e-school, [Ohio Virtual Academy](#), served 14,547 students during the 2022-23 SY.

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

- 24,591 students in SY 2019-20
- 37,612 students in SY 2020-21
- 33,700 students in SY 2021-22
- 32,373 students in SY 2022-23

Although enrollments have declined since the COVID peak, there is still a 32% increase over pre-pandemic enrollments.

Although [e-schools](#) made up only 4.75% of all community schools in Ohio during the 2022-23 SY they accounted for approximately 30% of student enrollments in community schools. Students enrolled in an e-school are provided with a computer and online access. E-schools enrollments are [capped](#) and are adjusted annually.

During the 2022-23 school year, there were 96 district-operated online learning schools

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

that enrolled 4,899 students including:

- Columbus City Schools' [Online Academy](#) offers online options for grades K-12. Students learn mostly online learning with the option face-t-face support, with both synchronous and asynchronous learning interventions.
- Cincinnati Public Schools' [Digital Academy](#) serves district students in grades K-12. Students outside the district may enroll tuition-free under CPS' Open Enrollment policy.
- The Dayton [Digital Academy](#) is a partnership with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County's Ohio Online Learning Program, serving resident students in grades 9-12.
- The [Virtual Academy](#) of the Cleveland metropolitan School District is a full-time program for grades K-12.
- Toledo Public Schools' [Virtual Academy](#) provides online options for grades 1-12.
- The Ohio Valley Education Service Center's [Blue Sky Virtual Academy](#) provides online options for students in partner districts in southeast Ohio.
- The Jefferson County Educational Services Center's [Virtual Learning Academy](#) serves eight schools districts but also enrolls K-12 students outside the region and outside Ohio.
- Middletown City Schools' [Middie Virtual Program](#) (MVP) is a hybrid school for Middletown students in grades 7-12.

Districts may adopt a blended learning approach but must complete an Ohio Department of Education (ODOE) Blended Learning Declaration form. Each district operating a school or a classroom in a blended learning environment must adopt policies and procedures per [Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-03](#). Schools are released from time-based [requirements](#) by changing hours of instruction to a competency-based approach.

For details of online learning funding in this state see the DLC's report [A Review of Online Learning Funding](#).

State Policies

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

Ohio [HB 110](#) (2021) permitted school districts to operate an online school and established district requirements and standards for that model. A district online learning school must be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Districts that operate an online learning school must:

- Provide all online students with a computer at no cost, with filtering software to keep students from accessing Internet materials that are obscene or harmful to juveniles.
- Provide all online students access to the Internet at no cost.

- Provide a comprehensive orientation for students and their parents or guardians.
- Use a learning management system to track each student’s time participating in online learning activities.

The act also defines standards required to operate on online schools.

- Permits students at any grade level to “earn credits or advance grade levels upon demonstrating mastery of knowledge or skills through competency-based learning models.”
- Establishes a maximum 1:125 teacher-to-student ratio for an online classroom.
- Requires online schools to have an annual calendar of not less than 910 hours.

The act also requires schools using a blended learning model to operate with an annual calendar of at least 910 hours. There is nothing that precludes a district from operating an online learning school and offering blended learning at other buildings in the district.

[DLC State Profile Key Terms](#)