

Virtual Virginia

Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education

Presented by: Lan W. Neugent

Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Career Education

June 19, 2008

Virtual Virginia

- **National Leader in Capability to Use Technology**
 - Education Week: Technology Counts – 2006, 2007
 - Web-based Standards of Learning Initiative
 - Educational Information Management System
 - Instructional Technology Resource Teachers
- **Infrastructure in Place to Support Virtual Education**

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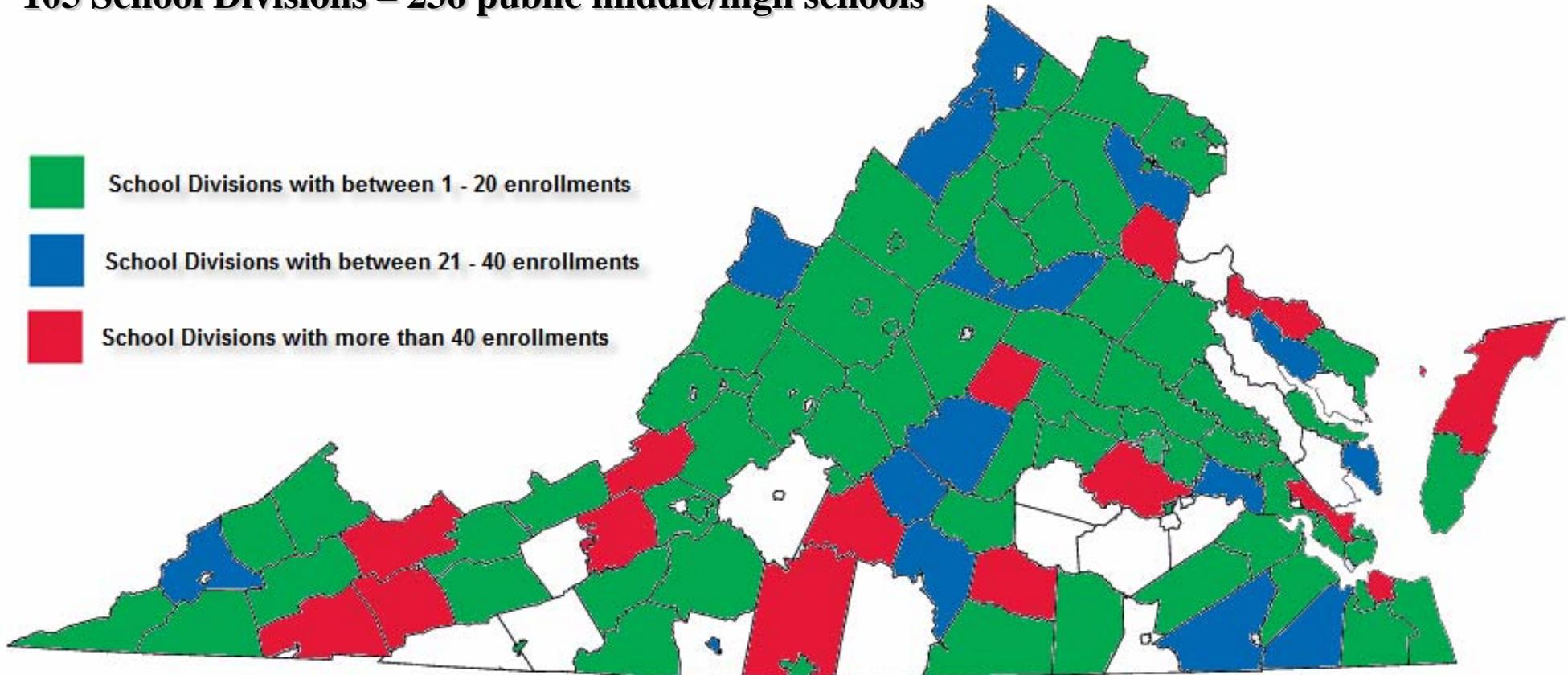
Why Develop Virtual Schools?

- Serve those who don't have access to the courses - Students (53%) and counselors (51%) report the course was not offered at their school.
- Provide courses when there are few options - Students (18%) and counselors (29%) report the student enrolled because there was a scheduling conflict.
- Alleviate the shortage of highly qualified teachers to teach advanced placement and other hard to staff courses, especially math, science and languages.
- Support improved academic success by offering alternatives for students who need one-on-one instruction.
- Provide equity of access to educational options throughout Virginia regardless of geographic location.

Virtual Virginia

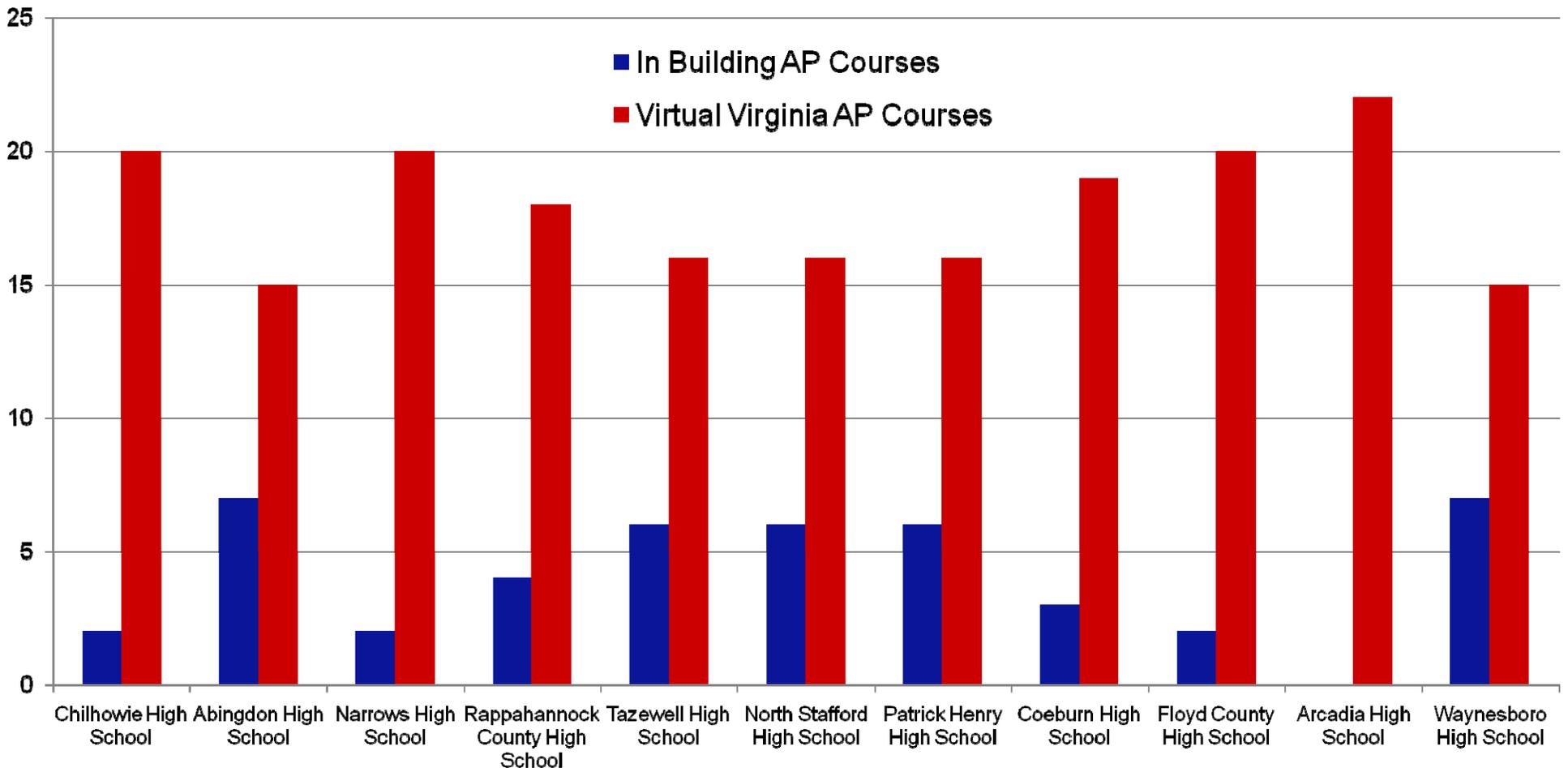
2007 – 2008 Academic School Year Enrollments

105 School Divisions – 236 public middle/high schools



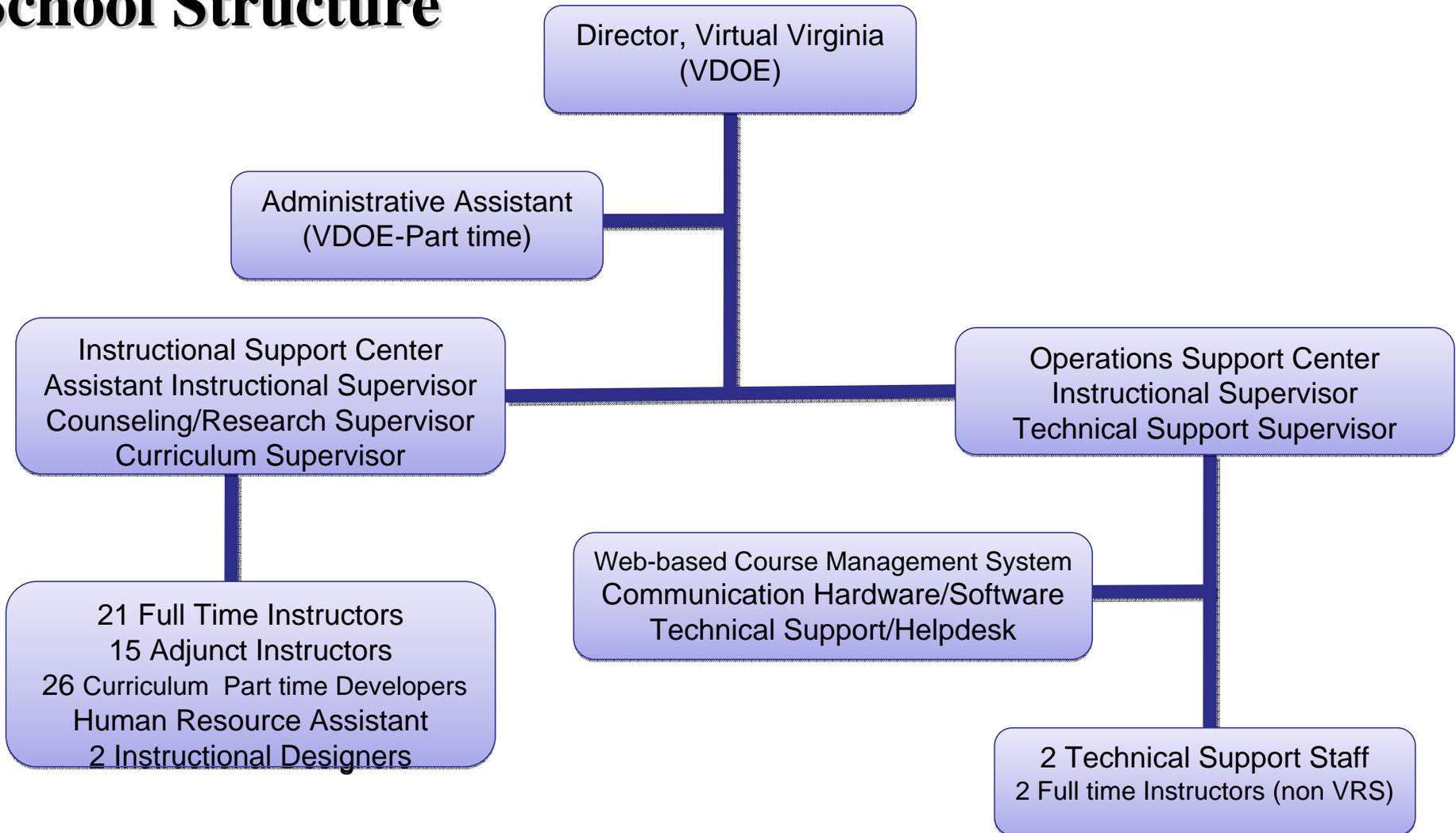
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Expanded AP Opportunities



Virtual Virginia

School Structure



Virtual Virginia Advanced Placement School

Course Delivery

Course content is designed to meet the varied learning styles of students. Instructional activities include:

- Text
- Discussion
- Interactivity
- Projects
- Written Assignments
- Collaboration
- Research
- Ancillary Materials
- Multimedia
- Presentations
- Video
- Simulations and Labs
- Question and Answer Sessions

Virtual Virginia Advanced Placement School



Advanced Placement Course Offerings

(Full Year and 4 X 4 Semester – 1 Credit)

Art History

Biology

Calculus AB

Calculus BC

Chemistry

Computer Science A - *

English Language and Composition

English Literature and Composition

Environmental Science

European History

French Language and Composition

Government and Politics: Comparative

Government and Politics: U.S.

Human Geography

Latin Literature

Physics B

Psychology

Spanish Language

Statistics

U.S. History

World History

Macroeconomics

Microeconomics

** - New Offering 2008-2009 School Year*

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Non-AP Course Offerings

(Full Year and 4 X 4 Semester – 1 Credit)

Chemistry (Honors)

Chinese I

Chinese II

Chinese III - *

Creative Writing

Earth Science - *

Latin I

Latin II

Latin III

Latin IV - *

Physics (Honors)

Pre-Calculus and Math Analysis

Spanish IV

Survey of World Languages - *

World Mythology

** - New Offering 2008-2009 School Year*

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Quality Coursework

- Course Procurement, Revision, and Creation
- Meet and Exceed State Standards of Learning and National Standards
- Courses Audited/Approved by the College Board
- Content Adheres to SREB Standards for Quality Online Instruction
- Virtual Instructional Time Equivalent to Traditional Classes

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Support for Student Achievement

- Experienced full time highly qualified teachers actively engaged with students more than 40 hours a week (*Part time instructors – 2 hours per day per 25 students*)
- Tools for communication and real-time instruction
 - *Toll-free telephone access to teachers*
 - *Internal instant messaging*
 - *Email*
 - *Voice messaging software*
- Virtual supervisors to assure quality instruction
- Virtual counselor to support students and schools
- School mentors for face-to-face support
- Course content Internet accessible anytime and anywhere

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Technical Infrastructure

- **Web-based course management system (D2L)**
 - Allows access to content/assignments at school or home
- **Communication hardware and software**
 - Email, Phone, Pager/Instant Messenger
- **Additional resources**
 - ElluminateLive! (web conferencing)
 - Wimba (audio/voice tools)
 - Virtual Labs
 - Supplemental software
- **Technical support/help desk**
 - Available during school hours

Virtual Virginia

State Virtual Schools

	Advanced Placement	Academic Courses	Elective Courses	Technical Courses	Other	2007 – 2008 Enrollments
Alabama	9	18	12	2	7	7,289
Arkansas	5	33	5	0	0	3,850
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	10	35	21	6	10	57,045
Georgia	20	45	4	11	17	4,331
Kentucky	23	15	25	0	16	1,352
Louisiana	2	21	13	0	0	5,605
Maryland	26	28	1	11	25	782
Mississippi	10	14	6	3	0	3,483
North Carolina	18	35	3	4	14	7,251
South Carolina	3	13	6	0	0	2,407
Tennessee	0	22	8	3	12	1,155
Texas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	23	13	3	0	0	3,026

Evaluation – Virtual AP/School Based AP

- Schools report that AP scores are equal to traditional instruction – 2007/08 scores available in September 2008
- On average students seem to perform equally well or better academically in online learning (sampling of AP scores in 2007 indicate scores to be close to the state average and on par with the school average).
- The majority of Virtual Virginia students (87%) report that the rigor of Virtual Virginia courses is equal to or greater than their traditional courses.
- Access to content and instruction is easier (24/7 course access).
- The majority of students report that the quality of online courses is equal to, or better than traditional courses (91% completion rate).
- The majority of Virtual Virginia students (78%) and counselors (90%) indicate that they would recommend virtual courses to other students.

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Online Instruction – Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

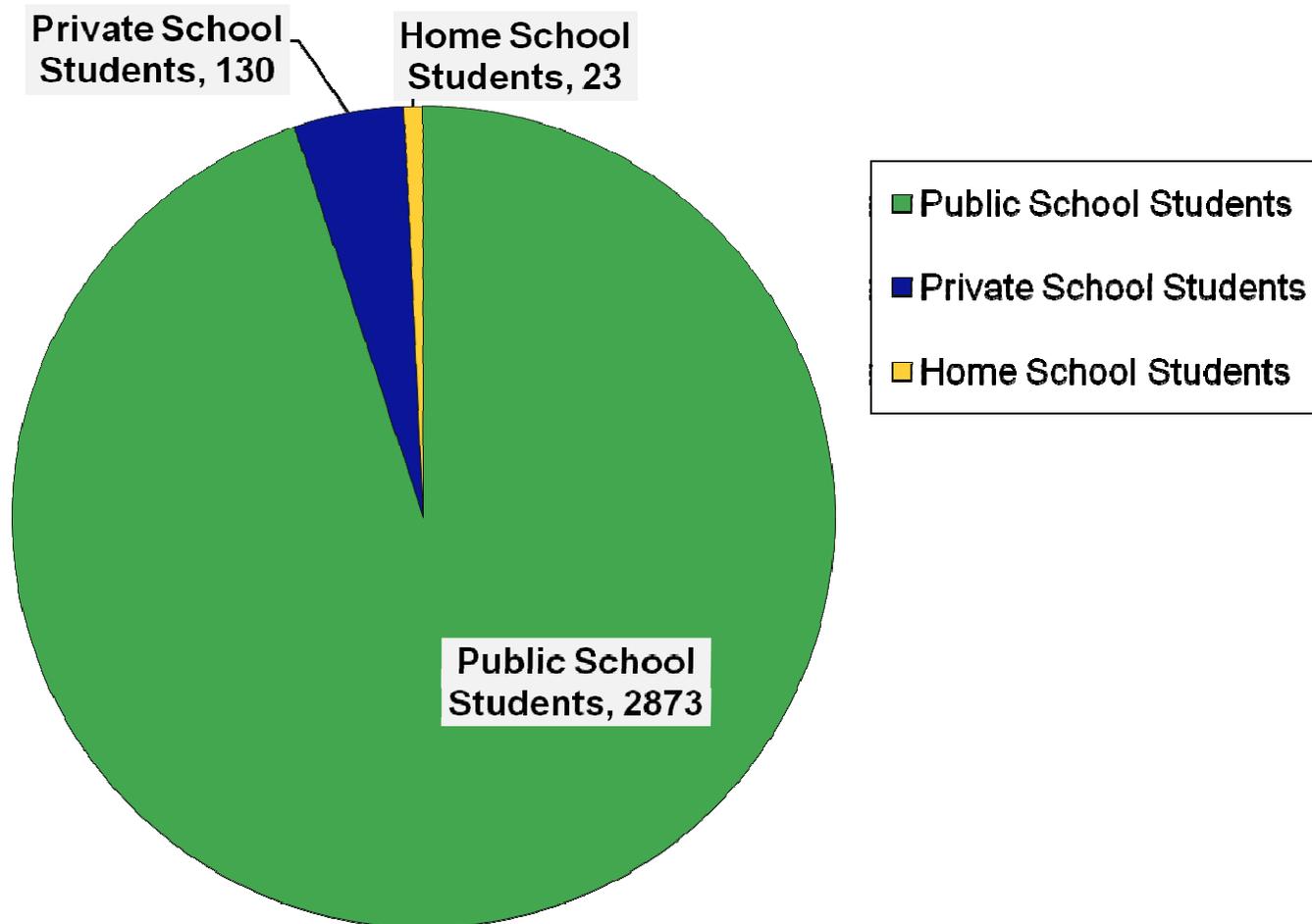
- Provides access to courses that schools can't offer
- Provides a solution for scheduling conflicts
- Provides opportunities for courses outside of the regular school day

Challenges

- Schools request a wider range of offerings including credit recovery and career and technical courses
- Enrollment requests exceed capacity
- Increased future demands will be more difficult to meet

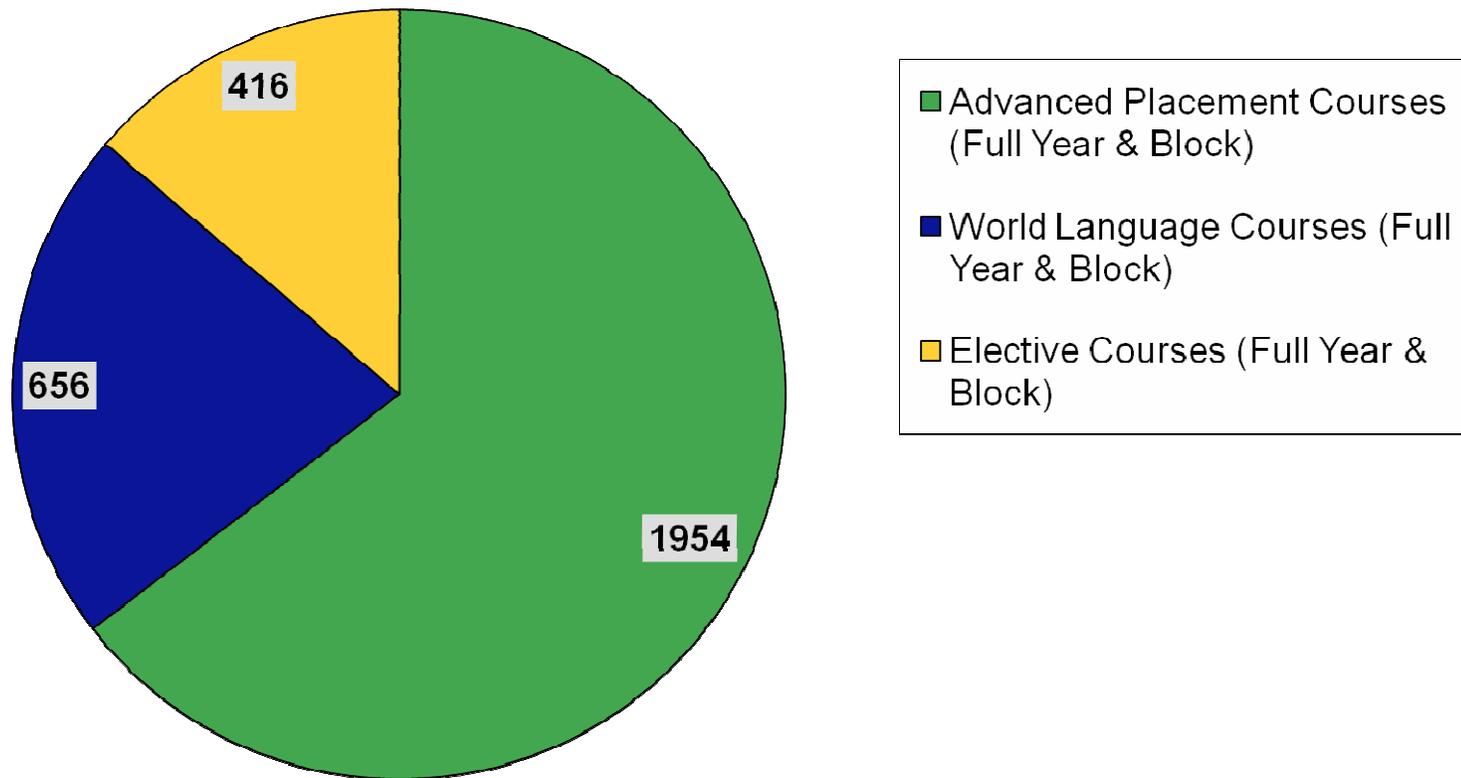
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Types of Schools in Virtual Virginia



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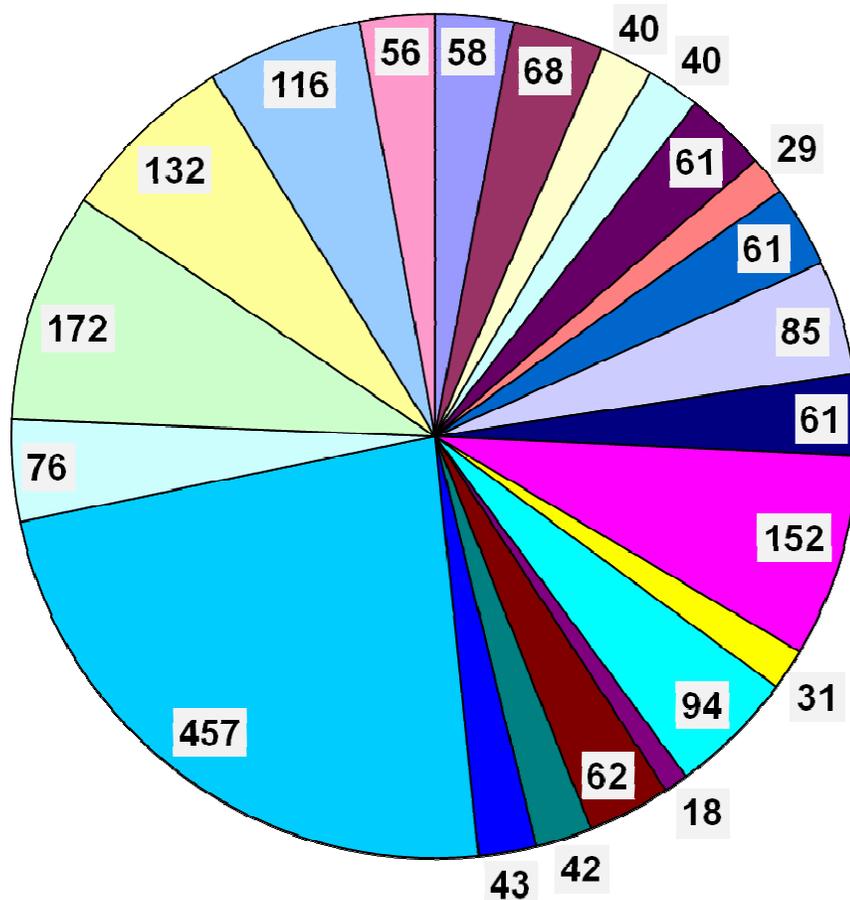
Total Enrollment by Category



Total 2007-08 Enrollment – 3,026

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AP Enrollment by Courses

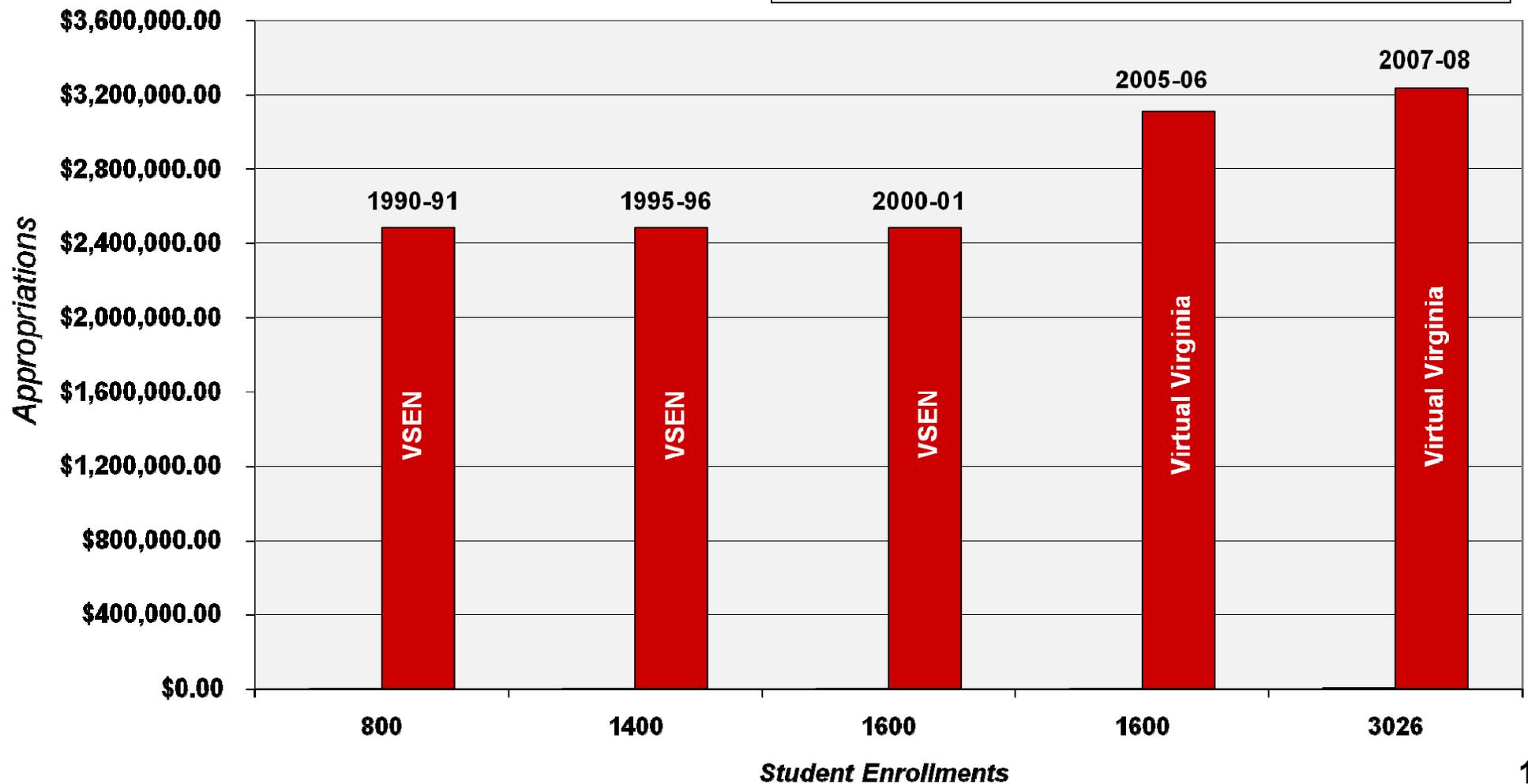


- AP Art History
- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Chemistry
- AP Comparative Government
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Environmental Science
- AP European History
- AP French Language
- AP Human Geography
- AP Latin Literature
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Physics B
- AP Psychology
- AP Spanish Language
- AP Statistics
- AP U.S. Government
- AP U.S. History
- AP World History

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Funding History

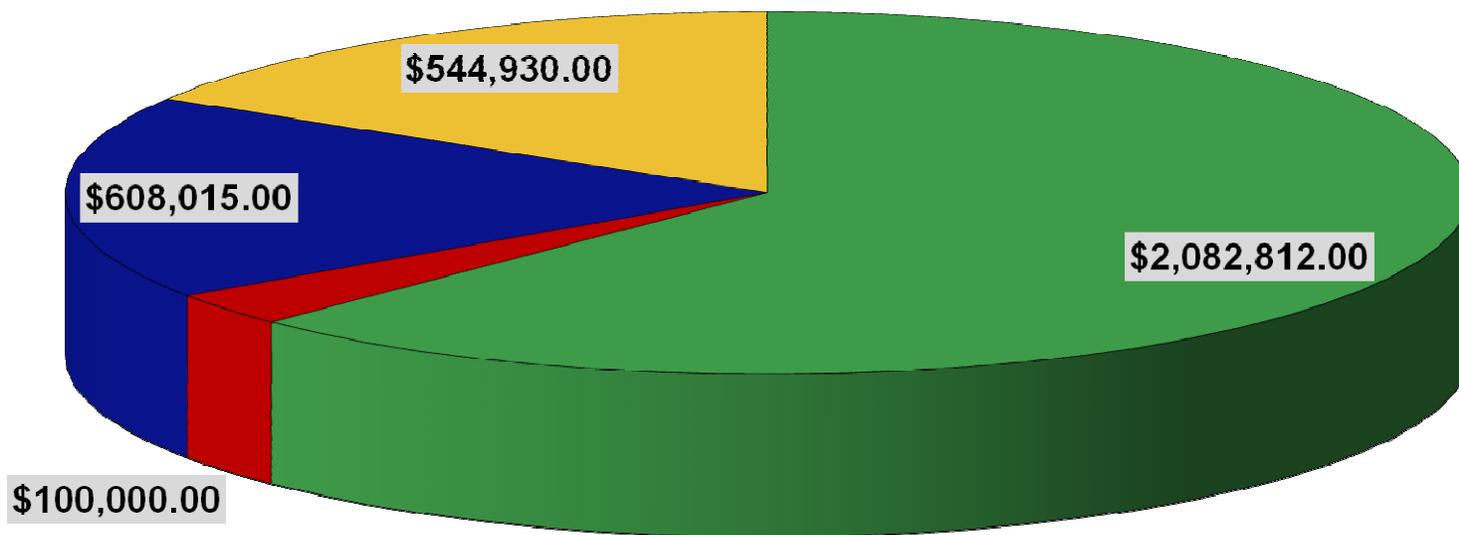
Note: 2005-06 and 2007-08 Include \$495,000 for EFAL



Virtual Virginia

Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008

*Cost Per Enrollment \$1,102 **



Total Encumbrances: \$3,335,757

Cross Program Funds \$495,000 / Electronic Classroom \$2,740,757

** - New Course Development Funds \$296,548*

Virtual Virginia

“Virtual Virginia has revolutionized the way I -- and students like me -- can learn. I'm not confined to the subjects offered at my high school, and thus, I am able to expand my horizons past those my school can provide.

Virtual Virginia is a world unto its own -- learning without seeing or touching, and yet still meeting other students around our state, around the world, and succeeding.”



A.J. Collins
Rappahannock County High School Student