

RESULTS
PERFORMANCE AUDIT of
The Virtual Public School
THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI)

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AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Virtual Public School (VPS)

- Provide **Online** Courses **Accessible** to NC Local Public Schools
- Administered by DPI
- Established 2007

Mission: Provide **High Quality** Online Courses & Instruction That Allow Local Public Schools to **Enhance & Expand** the Academic Programs Provided to Students

Guarantee: NCVPS Will Create **High Quality, Engaging** Content Grounded in the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy...

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GS 115C-238.81 requires NCVPS to ensure that each course offered meets certain content & design standards.

- **North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS)** – Defines Appropriate Content Standards – Classroom/Online
- **Quality Standards** – Defines & Provides a Set of Quality Standards for ONLINE Courses - NCVPS Adopted Quality Matter Standards (QM)
- **Advanced Placement Standards** – Define Detailed Set of Expectations About What College-Level Courses Should Cover – Developed by College Board
- **Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy** – Framework Evaluates Complexity/Rigor
NCVPS “Guarantees” All Courses are Aligned w/ Bloom’s Taxonomy

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

- 27 Permanent Staff
- Relies Mostly on Contracted Teachers to Develop & Deliver Courses
- 2018-2019 – 745 Contracted Licensed Teachers & Coaches
\$18 Million – Received by NCVPS to Cover Instructional Cost of Courses
- 2017-2018 – 806 Contracted Licensed Teachers & Coaches
\$19 Million – Received by NCVPS to Cover Instructional Cost of Courses

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

Course Category	Number of Courses	2018-2019 Enrollment	2017-2018 Enrollment
Advanced Placement (AP)	17	2,989	3,783
General and Honors	81	31,018	33,913
Credit Recovery	13	358	818
Occupational Course of Study	12	17,584	17,799
External Courses & Test Preparation Courses	10	-	-
Total	133	51,949	56,313

NOTE:

- 133 Unique Courses
- 98 Subject to This Audit
- 36 of 98 Revised Under NCVPS' New Development & Revision Process – 2016-2017
- 12 Selected For Audit
- 2 of the 36 Included in the 12 Selected for Audit – Revised Under New Process

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

AUDIT OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To Determine Whether NCVPS Course Content & Design Compliant w/ Content And Design Standards for Online Courses
- 2) Whether NCVPS Monitors Course Quality in Accordance w/ Recognized Standards & Best Practices for Online Courses

NOTE: To Determine Whether Course Content & Design Met Standards OSA Contracted w/ Subject Matter Expert (SME)

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

Subject Matter Expert (SME) Qualifications:

- SME Holds Doctorate in Education
- Certified Course Reviewer For National Quality Assurance Organization in Online Education
- Serves on National Standards for Online Quality Leadership Team
- Recently Co-led Rewrite for the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching and Quality Online Programs
- Certified Quality Matters (QM) Reviewer
- Led Team of 10 Other Experts w/ Masters Degrees-4 w/ Doctorates

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

FINDINGS:

- 1) Eight of 12 Courses Did Not Meet Required Curriculum Content Standards for Either 1) Instruction 2) Assessment, or 3) Both as Required by State Law and NCVPS Policy

RISK:

- Teachers Will Not Cover All of the Necessary Subject Matter
- Could Adversely Impact College & Career Preparedness for Students Enrolled in the Classes

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

FINDINGS:

2) 11 of 12 Courses – No Assurance that Courses Met NCVPS
Adopted Standards for Cognitive Rigor

- 11 of 12 Courses Evaluated Found to be in Level 1 and 2 of
Revised Bloom's Taxonomy

RISK:

- Students Will Not Master Course Material

Note: Rigor – Complex Thinking & Application of Knowledge

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Examples:

**AP Art History - 100 % of Instruction - Low Rigor
52% of Assessment-Low Rigor**

**AP Environmental Science - 93% of Instruction – Low Rigor
51% of Assessment – Low Rigor**

**Physical Science - 59% of Instruction – Low Rigor
45% of Assessment – Low Rigor**

**AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT
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DPI NCVPS Response:

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

FINDINGS:

3) NCVPS Teacher Evaluations Not Performed Consistently & In Accordance w/ Policy

- 622 Teacher Evaluations Review – 2017-2018 School Yr
 - 136 Contained No Evidence of Review/Not Timely
 - 120 No Evidence Teacher Issues Were Addressed
 - 82 Contained Incorrect Ratings
 - 14 Missing Required Information

AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT DPI/VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL (NCVPS)

FINDINGS:

3) NCVPS Teacher Evaluations Not Performed
Consistently & In Accordance w/ Policy (cont'd)

Risk:

- Poor Performance Will Not Be Identified & Corrected Timely
- Students Could Receive Substandard Instruction

**AUDIT RESULTS – PERFORMANCE AUDIT
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DPI NCVPS Response:

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FINDINGS:

4) NCVPS Course Content Not Properly Cited To Avoid Copyright Infringement

Examples:

- Questions on a Physical Science Assessment Found on Practice Test of Well-Known Educational Publisher
- Question on Pre-Calculus Assessment Found in Lesson Published by Another Educational Publisher
- Introduction to a Module in African-American Studies Course Found in a Book About African contributions to American Culture

Risk: Potential Litigation from Publishers & Authors

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DPI NCVPS Response:

QUESTIONS



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