

Online Public School Programs in WA State

- **Online public school programs are a good fit for thousands of students:** There are many personal reasons parents select online public school programs for their child's education (individualized instruction, one-on-one relationship with the teacher, health concerns, difficulties in traditional classroom settings...). Programs can offer innovative, individualized, mastery-based online learning with traditional hands-on instructional materials. However diverse the online programs may be, every online family supports their child's public school education by enrolling their daughter or son in a public school program that fits their child's learning needs.
- **Certificated teachers:** Every WA state certificated teacher teaching online is responsible for closely managing their students' learning and making sure their students meet all academic, accountability and attendance requirements. Teachers provide multiple opportunities for students, parents and teachers to come together to build relationships outside of their online experiences communicating with the use of technology.
- **Parents partnering in education: *Not home schooling:*** While many ALE (Alternative Learning Experience) online public school programs are supported by the child's parent(s) or guardian as a learning coach, it is vastly different from what is referred to as "homeschooling." Parents of students in online public school programs build strong partnerships with their child's WA certificated teacher and stay engaged in their child's specific learning needs and lessons. Online public school programs are transparent with standards established by state law, OSPI rules and regulations, plus initial and repeated evaluation required for accreditation.
- **Increased accountability:** Online public school programs require all statewide assessment and accountability measures plus:
 - + school board program approval and annual review,
 - + individualized learning plans for each student in every course,
 - + documentation for each student's satisfactory performance and
 - + mandatory accreditation. Beginning with this year's legislation, additional state approval and reporting will also be required.