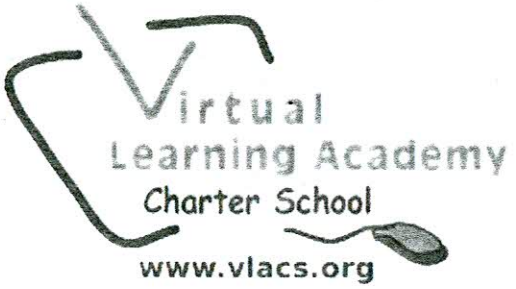

Report to the

Commissioner's Task Force on State Funding for the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School

November 18, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I: STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA 3

STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL TYPE 3
SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: ETHNICITY 4
SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER 4
SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: ALL STUDENTS, TOWN OF RESIDENCE 5
ENROLLMENT BY COURSE 13

SECTION II: PUBLIC SCHOOL DATA 16

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT COUNT 16
SCHOOL DISTRICT SURVEY RESULTS 19
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES 20
STUDENT ENTRANCE SURVEY RESULTS: PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BY CATEGORY AND ENROLLMENTS 25
STUDENT ENTRANCE SURVEY RESULTS: PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS COMMENTS 27

SECTION III: APPENDICES 35

APPENDIX A: ENTRANCE SURVEY, ALL SCHOOLS, BY ENROLLMENT 35
APPENDIX B: ENTRANCE SURVEY, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BY ENROLLMENT 37
APPENDIX C: ENTRANCE SURVEY, ALL STUDENTS BY CATEGORY AND ENROLLMENTS 39
APPENDIX D: PRESS RELEASE – FINANCIAL EXPERTS SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA 40
APPENDIX D: LETTER – FROM SUSAN PATRICK TO GEORGIA CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION 42

SECTION I: STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA

NOTE: INCLUDES ALL SCHOOL TYPES

STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL TYPE

2010-2011 Fiscal Year as of November 8, 2010

School Type	High School		Middle School		Elem. School		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Public	4039	72%	326	29%	2	67%	4367	65%
Home	828	15%	722	65%	1	33%	1551	23%
VLACS FT	345	6%	0	0%	0	0%	345	5%
Dropout	168	3%	22	2%	0	0%	190	3%
Private	140	2%	31	3%	0	0%	171	3%
Charter	85	2%	7	1%	0	0%	92	1%
Total	5605	100%	1108	100%	3	100%	6716	100%

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: ETHNICITY
November 16, 2010

Race	Female	Male	All Students
African American	1.4%	0.7%	1.1%
Asian	1.7%	2.1%	1.9%
Hispanic	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%
Multi-Ethnic	1.8%	2.4%	2.1%
Native American	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%
Not Listed	2.2%	1.0%	1.6%
White Non-Hispanic	90.3%	91.8%	91.0%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER
November 16, 2010

Gender	%
Female	57.0%
Male	43.0%

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: ALL STUDENTS, TOWN OF RESIDENCE

November 16, 2010

Town/City	Total
Albany	2
Alexandria	12
Allenstown	12
Alstead	7
Alton	16
Alton Bay	3
Amherst	50
Andover	10
Antrim	15
Ashland	3
Atkinson	16
Auburn	12
Barnstead	7
Barrington	23
Bartlett	2
Bath	7
Bedford	92
Belmont	42
Bennington	10
Benton	1
Berlin	18
Bethlehem	26
Bethlehem,	1
Bethlehm	1
Boscawen	15
Bow	80
Bradford	15
Brentwood	21
Bridgewater	2
Bristol	13
Brookfield	4
Brookline	30
Campton	6
Canaan	26
Candia	12
Cannan	1
Cannann	1

Canterbury	16
Center Barnstead	10
Center Conway	13
Center Harbor	17
Center Ossipee	2
Center Sandiwich	1
Center Sandwich	7
Center Tuftonboro	1
Chalestown	1
Charlesrown	1
Charlestown	19
Chester	4
Chichester	9
Chocorua	5
Claremont	32
Clarksville	2
Colebrook	13
Columbia	1
Concord	112
Contoocook	13
Conway	16
Conway (North Conway)	1
Cornish	4
Croydon	4
Ctr Sandwich	1
Ctr. Barnstead	2
Ctr.Ossipee	1
Dalton	6
Dalton N.N	1
Danbury	7
Danville	8
Deerfield	19
Deering	25
Deering Nh	1
Derry	23
Dorchester	2
Dover	76
Dublin	11
Dunbarton	25
Durham	69
East Andover	1

East Conway	1
East Hampstead	2
East Kingston	13
East Kinsgton	1
East Rochester	3
East Wakefeild	1
East Wakefield	3
Easton	1
Eaton	3
Effingham	2
Elkins	5
Ellsworth	1
Enfield	26
Enfield Center	1
Epping	33
Epsom	11
Etna	2
Exeter	56
Farmignton	1
Farmingtion	1
Farmington	69
Fitzwillam	1
Francestonw	1
Francestown	9
Franconia	8
Franklin	38
Freedom	12
Fremont	30
Georges Mills	3
Gilford	36
Gilmanton	15
Gilmanton Iron Works	5
Gilmanton Iw	4
Gilsum	3
Glen	4
Goffsotwn	1
Goffstown	101
Goffstown Nh	1
Goffstwn	1
Gofftown	1
Gonic	4
Goofstown	1

Gorham	59
Goshen	5
Grafton	7
Grantham	16
Greenfield	13
Greenland	9
Greenville	8
Groton	1
Groveton	17
Hampstead	5
Hampton	26
Hampton Falls	6
Hancock	11
Hanover	6
Hanovr	1
Haverhill	4
Hebron	2
Henniker	11
Hennker	1
Hiilsboro	1
Hill	10
Hillsboro	69
Hillsborough	8
Hinsdale	39
Holderness	2
Hollis	32
Hooksett	44
Hoosksett	1
Hopkinton	23
Hudsom	1
Hudson	136
Intervale	6
Jackson	2
Jaffrey	24
Jefferson	7
Keene	15
Kensington	4
Kingston	36
Laconia	34
Lancaster	33
Landaff	1
Langdon	3

Lebanon	36
Lebanon,	1
Lee	33
Lempster	5
Lincoln	23
Lisbon	21
Lisbon, Nh	1
Litchfield	56
Littleton	74
Londonderry	63
Loudon	36
Lyman	5
Lyme	3
Lyndeborough	15
Madbury	22
Madison	7
Madsion	1
Manchester	311
Manchester Nh	1
Marlborough	4
Marlow	1
Mason	5
Melvin Village	1
Meredith	42
Meredith,	2
Meriden	2
Merrimack	61
Merrrimck	1
Middleton	22
Middlteon	1
Milan	5
Milford	39
Milton	14
Milton Mills	3
Miltonmills	1
Monroe	2
Mont Vernon	13
Moultonboro	1
Moultonborough	33
N Sandwich	1
N Woodstock	1
N. Conway	3

N. Stratford	2
N. Woodstock	6
Nahsua	1
Nashua	135
Nelson	1
New Boston	35
New Castle	3
New Durham	5
New Hampton	10
New Ipswich	15
New London	20
Newbury	11
Newfields	11
Newington	1
Newmarket	40
Newport	31
Newton	37
Nh	1
No. Haverhill	1
North Conway	18
North Hampton	4
North Haverhill	4
North Sandwich	2
North Stratford	3
North Sutton	3
North Woodstock	9
Northfield	44
Northumberland	1
Northwood	18
Nottingham	17
Orford	9
Ossipee	5
Pelham	37
Pembroke	17
Penacook	19
Peterborough	30
Peterborourh	1
Piermont	1
Pike	4
Pittsburg	2
Pittsfield	21
Plainfield	4

Plaistow	18
Plymouth	8
Portsmouth	31
Randolph	3
Raymond	74
Richmond	3
Rindge	18
Rochester	76
Rollinsford	9
Rotchester	1
Rumney	14
Rye	7
Rye Beach	2
S. Sutton	2
Salem	59
Salisbury	7
Sanbornton	18
Sanbornville	7
Sandown	17
Seabrook	17
Sharon	2
Shelburne	4
Silver Lake	1
Somersworth	28
South Sutton	1
Spofford	2
Spring Field	1
Springfield	4
Springfield Nh	1
Sratham	1
Stark	3
Stewartstown	3
Stoddard	1
Strafford	25
Strafford,	1
Stratford	1
Stratham	38
Sugar Hill	8
Sullivan	2
Sunapee	14
Sutton	4
Sutton Mills	1

Swanzey	7
Tamworth	10
Temple	4
Thornton	12
Tilton	12
Troy	5
Twin Mountain	4
Twin Mountiain	1
Union	2
W. Chesterfield	1
W. Ossipee	1
Wakefeild	1
Wakefield	4
Walpole	11
Warner	23
Warren	6
Washigton	1
Washington	16
Waterville Valey	1
Waterville Valley	7
Weare	39
Webster	11
Wentworth	2
West Canaan	1
West Chesterfield	1
West Lebanon	11
West Nottingham	1
West Ossipee	1
West Peterborough	1
Westmoreland	1
Whitefield	14
Wilmot	5
Wilton	24
Winchester	2
Windham	31
Windsor	1
Winnisquam	2
Wolfeboro	17
Wolfeboro Falls	1
Woodstock	4
Woodsville	5
Grand Total	4903

ENROLLMENT BY COURSE

2010-2011 Fiscal Year as of November 8, 2010

Course	Male	Female	HS	MS	Elem	Total
Advisory	28	22	50	0	0	50
Algebra 1	180	160	278	62	0	340
Algebra 1A	60	50	98	12	0	110
Algebra 1B	18	23	40	1	0	41
Algebra 2	99	160	257	2	0	259
American Government	40	69	104	5	0	109
American History	151	148	298	1	0	299
American History - Conspiracy Code	1	8	9	0	0	9
AP Biology	7	10	17	0	0	17
AP Calculus AB	8	6	14	0	0	14
AP Computer Science A	15	0	15	0	0	15
AP Macroeconomics	11	8	19	0	0	19
AP Microeconomics	13	8	21	0	0	21
AP US History	8	15	23	0	0	23
Biology 1	103	144	234	13	0	247
Chemistry	52	93	143	2	0	145
Comp Algebra 1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Comp Algebra 1B	0	1	1	0	0	1
Comp Algebra 2	2	0	2	0	0	2
Comp American History	7	0	7	0	0	7
Comp Biology	7	1	8	0	0	8
Comp English 1	4	0	4	0	0	4
Comp English 2	1	1	2	0	0	2
Comp Fitness Lifestyle Design	4	0	4	0	0	4
Comp Geometry	2	2	4	0	0	4
Comp Liberal Arts Math / Algebra 2	7	1	8	0	0	8
Comp Life Management Skills	6	2	8	0	0	8
Comp Marine Science	4	0	4	0	0	4
Comp Personal Fitness	3	0	3	0	0	3
Comp Physical Science	4	1	5	0	0	5
Comp Spanish 2	0	1	1	0	0	1
Comp Spanish 3	1	0	1	0	0	1
Comp Spanish 4	1	0	1	0	0	1

Competency Computing for College and Careers	1	0	1	0	0	1
Computer Programming Basic 1	26	13	32	7	0	39
Computing for College and Careers	68	68	136	0	0	136
Earth-Space Science	63	81	135	9	0	144
Economics	73	106	178	1	0	179
English 1	140	131	250	21	0	271
English 2	87	126	213	0	0	213
English 3	120	148	266	2	0	268
English 4	75	158	233	0	0	233
eStart: American Government	2	2	4	0	0	4
eStart: Biology 1	4	7	11	0	0	11
eStart: English Composition	5	10	15	0	0	15
eStart: French 1	1	0	1	0	0	1
eStart: French 2	0	1	1	0	0	1
eStart: French 3	1	0	1	0	0	1
eStart: French 4	0	1	1	0	0	1
eStart: Introduction to Literature	0	2	2	0	0	2
eStart: Introduction to Music	2	3	5	0	0	5
eStart: Introduction to Nutrition	1	4	5	0	0	5
eStart: Introduction to Psychology	5	6	11	0	0	11
eStart: Introduction to Sociology	1	6	7	0	0	7
eStart: Medical Terminology	0	10	10	0	0	10
eStart: Principles of Marketing	1	1	2	0	0	2
eStart: Software Applications	1	3	4	0	0	4
eStart: Statistics	3	9	12	0	0	12
eStart: Western Civilization	0	1	1	0	0	1
Fitness Lifestyle Design	11	33	44	0	0	44
GED	1	0	1	0	0	1
Geometry	134	162	278	18	0	296
Global Studies	47	45	92		0	92
Latin 1	60	133	166	26	1	193
Latin 2	18	34	48	4	0	52
Latin 3	9	18	27	0	0	27
Liberal Arts Math / Algebra 2	37	45	82	0	0	82
Life Management Skills	52	89	131	10	0	141
Mandarin Chinese 1	28	36	45	19	0	64
Mandarin Chinese 2	8	7	15	0	0	15
Marine Science	37	111	144	4	0	148

MS Language Arts 1	35	41	0	76	0	76
MS Language Arts 2	22	31	6	47	0	53
MS Language Arts 3	44	29	7	66	0	73
MS Keyboarding	11	11	3	19	0	22
MS Comprehensive Science 1	45	41	7	79	0	86
MS Comprehensive Science 2	16	13	1	28	0	29
MS Comprehensive Science 3	22	18	4	36	0	40
MS Computer Literacy 1	12	2	6	8	0	14
MS Math 1	56	38	6	88	0	94
MS Math 2	33	35	6	60	2	68
MS Math 3	55	31	18	68	0	86
MS Reading V1	12	15	0	27	0	27
MS Spanish	20	49	6	63	0	69
MS World Cultures	25	37	7	55	0	62
MS World Geography	57	30	6	81	0	87
Personal Fitness	47	124	167	4	0	171
Physical Science	72	110	173	9	0	182
Physics 1	33	43	76		0	76
Pre-calculus	29	62	89	2	0	91
SAT Preparation	30	61	90	1	0	91
SNHU - American Politics	2	5	7	0	0	7
SNHU - Applied Finite Mathematics	4	1	5	0	0	5
SNHU - Interactive 3-D Virtual Environments	4	0	4	0	0	4
Spanish 1	70	110	141	39	0	180
Spanish 2	40	71	107	4	0	111
Spanish 3	12	34	46	0	0	46
Thinking and Learning Strategies	6	12	17	1	0	18
Web Design 1	54	77	111	20	0	131
Web Design 2	8	2	10	0	0	10
World History	74	119	185	8	0	193

SECTION II: PUBLIC SCHOOL DATA

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS: PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT COUNT

November 16, 2010

Count of District	
District	*Total*
Alton	1
Amherst	1
Bedford	91
Berlin	34
Bow	71
Campton	2
Candia	2
Claremont	45
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy	5
Colebrook	5
Concord	91
Contoocook Valley	99
Conway	85
Cornish	1
Derry Cooperative	12
Dover	67
Dresden	7
East Kingston	2
Epping	20
Exeter Region Cooperative	117
Fall Mountain Regional	39
Farmington	113
Franklin	56
Fremont	3
Gilford	61
Goffstown	154
Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School District	31
Goshen-Lempster Cooperative	8
Governor Wentworth Regional	33
Hampton	3
Hampton Falls	5

Haverhill Cooperative	24
Henniker	4
Hillsboro-Deering Cooperative	75
Hinsdale	39
Holderness	2
Hollis	2
Hollis-Brookline Cooperative	59
Hooksett	6
Hopkinton	25
Hudson	145
Inter-Lakes Cooperative	34
Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative	41
John Stark Regional	40
Kearsarge Regional	63
Keene	32
Kensington	1
Laconia	36
Lebanon	59
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	13
Lisbon Regional	5
Litchfield	54
Littleton	44
Londonderry	28
Manchester	460
Marlborough	6
Mascenic Regional	44
Mascoma Valley Regional	107
Merrimack	67
Merrimack Valley	112
Milford	28
Milton	19
Monadnock Regional	16
Mont Vernon	3
Moultonborough	28
Nashua	123
Newfound Area	45
Newmarket	14
Newport	20
Northumberland	23
Northwood	5
Oyster River Coop	115
Pelham	18

Pembroke	28
Pemi-Baker Regional	30
Pinkerton Academy	19
Pittsburg	7
Pittsfield	17
Plainfield	1
Plymouth	7
Portsmouth	45
Profile	46
Prospect Mountain JMA	21
Raymond	60
Rivendell Interstate School District	9
Rochester	76
Rumney	6
Salem	81
Sanborn Regional	104
Shaker Regional	49
Somersworth	23
Souhegan Cooperative	37
Strafford	10
Stratford	5
Sunapee	7
Thornton	2
Timberlane Regional	55
Wakefield	2
Washington	1
Waterville Valley	18
Weare	12
White Mountains Regional	68
Wilton-Lyndeborough	33
Windham	9
Winnacunnet Cooperative	36
Winnisquam Regional	50
Grand Total	4322

SCHOOL DISTRICT SURVEY RESULTS
November 14, 2010

1. From the following list, please choose all that apply as reasons your school allows students to enroll in VLACS courses	
Acceleration: Enroll in courses before typical age/grade	49%
Acceleration: Enroll in courses to graduate early	35%
Credit recovery: Retake failed courses	68%
Resolve course conflict within school schedule	54%
Student finds it easier to learn online	27%
Flexibility of online courses schedule	49%
Enroll in a course that is not offered by local school	76%
Competency recovery	22%
Extended Learning Opportunities	19%
Advanced Placement	27%
Advanced courses: Dual high school & college credit	32%
Need credit to graduate with class	65%
Need credit to graduate	62%
Meet required technology standards	14%
Enroll in course as an alternative to withdrawing from local school	27%
Other, please specify	8%

2. Please choose from the following list the support(s) your school provides for students taking VLACS courses	
Computer lab staffed with school personnel	46%
Online coordinator	35%
After school program	14%
Use of a study hall period	62%
Other, please specify	30%

3. We believe that the number of online courses taken by our students will increase in the future	
Yes	81%
No	19%

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Interviews conducted May through July, 2010

SCHOOL QUESTIONS

1. Are VLACS courses becoming a popular option in your school? 100% of School Partnerships interviewed responded "yes".

Why?

- Advancement
- Personal interests - courses that aren't offered
- Caliber of courses - rigorous & challenging
- Resolve scheduling conflicts
- Allow for outside activities - music, theater, sports, volunteerism
- Course recovery
- Addresses the student who has difficulty with traditional environment (emotional or physical illnesses)
- Has helped keep students in school - lowered the dropout rate

2. How do you see VLACS courses being used in your school next year, in two years, in three years?
   - Meeting the educational needs of those over 21 -
   - Enabling students to work senior year for college money or to begin college early
   - Advancement - leave high school with college credits
   - VLACS will begin to be offered at more Middle Schools
   - VLACS will be a integral part of after school programs
   - Growth with competency connection

PARENT/GUARDIAN QUESTIONS

1. How have VLACS classes helped your child?
   - My child needs more 1 on 1 attention - traditional environment teacher deals with multiple students. VLACS teachers do 1 on 1 instruction.
   - Developed responsibility
   - Learned time management skills
   - Took control of his/her instruction/learning
   - More focused on learning
   - Child now "wants to learn" as opposed to "has to learn"
   - VLACS committed themselves to supporting child through medical crisis, enabling her to keep up with her work to graduate on time. The child advanced with VLACS instruction and could have actually graduated early.

2. Describe how VLACS classes have helped your child to become an independent learner and/or prepared your child for college.
   - Developed the understanding that their education is in their own hands
   - Developed confidence
   - Developed the ability to distinguish the difference between "good and bad" pacing.
   - Developed a broader spectrum of learning methods
   - Developed strong research skills
   - Developed strong problem solving skills

3. Describe the strengths of VLACS courses.
   - Challenged the child - more required of the child
   - Curriculum is rigorous
   - Students enhanced their communication abilities - their knowledge was delivered in a variety of forms.
   - Courses are accessible anytime, anywhere
   - Courses are solid
   - Teacher assistance is always available
   - Encourages students to seek out help more

4. Would you recommend VLACS courses to another parent/guardian? 100% of parents interviewed responded "yes" and all have recommend VLACS courses to other parents.

Why?
   - Was the best educational experience for their child
   - The level of professionalism
   - The level of teacher support
   - The flexibility - have class will travel (great for students in sports)
   - Collaborative - all equally involved/committed - teacher, student & parent(s)
   - Answers the educational need for the "non traditional" child/student
   - Develops maturity, responsibility, critical thinking & problem solving skills

STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. How have VLACS classes helped you?
   - Online requires you to focus more
   - Have become a better listener
   - Follow directions better
   - Received HS diploma while experiencing the working world
   - Built self confidence
   - Assisted in targeting future goals
   - Actively participatde in classroom discussions
   - Able to pursue outside activities – sports, music, community/civic jobs

- Teaches you to be disciplined

2. Describe how VLACS classes have helped you become an independent learner and/or prepared you for college.
   - Requires you to be responsible for your own learning
   - Encourages you to ask questions
   - Develops critical thinking skills
   - Develops problem solving skills
   - Offers SAT classes
   - 1 on 1 attention without "hand holding"
   - Develops high level time management skills
   - Helps diminish or eliminate test phobia

3. Describe the strengths of the VLACS courses.
   - Teacher availability – 24/7
   - Flexibility
   - Teachers' goal is to assist you in excelling
   - Pace – you can learn at your own pace – fast or slow.
   - More teacher/parent/student communication and collaborative involvement
   - Courses are very organized
   - Teachers allow for creativity and "thinking out of the box"
   - Fewer distractions – therefore you can concentrate better/focus – no teenage drama

4. Describe how online learning classes differ from traditional school-based classes.
   - More individual attention
   - Round the clock teacher attention
   - Round the clock course/class availability
   - Ability to do coursework anywhere
   - More flexibility
   - Exposed to students from other areas – (NH towns and other states), allowing you to be exposed to different perspectives
   - More structured curriculum
   - Eliminates the fear of participating in discussions or speaking in front of people
   - Classmates have more in common regarding learning – goals, attitudes, desire to achieve
   - Pace – you can fast track or take your time
   - Convenience of studying when it's best for you

Instructor Questions

1. What attracted you to online teaching?

- Flexibility – hours
- Flexibility – location
- Flexibility – students engaging when they're focused & "ready". They work with you when they're usually at their best
- Understood the online process and was eager to teach in that environment – knew it helped students who were afraid to participate
- Ability to reach "certain" students
- Wanted to do "at home/online" teaching through technology
- Online is cutting edge – some "trad" schools not there yet
- 1 on 1 instruction
- Teach to the individual needs – tailored to each student
- Able to target the lessons

2. Describe how you have changed your traditional teaching as a result of your experience teaching online.
   - Improved time management
   - More available for 1 on 1 instruction
   - Improved communication with students/parents
   - More effective with pacing for different levels of learning
   - Incorporating more technology into classroom
   - Using resources that aren't available to other classroom teachers
   - Incorporating a stronger sense of student responsibility
   - Allowing "redo/re-grade" before the end of the course
   - Aligning instruction based on students' learning styles and abilities
   - Impacted coaching style
   - Energizes classroom instruction

3. Describe the process of online teaching.
   - Welcome Call – begins relationship building with student (their age, their goals, their reasons, interests, etc), relationship building with parent/guardian
   - Communication and connection is tantamount for monitoring pace chart, remediation, FAQ, any personal issues disrupting the learning experience, maintaining motivation
   - Defining instructor focus for each assignment
   - Provide tools to find answers not give answers
   - Feedback on work – "make it better"! Encourages "redos" so they "**know** the material not **go through** the material"

4. Comment on your relationship with parents/guardians and students.
   - We're a "team"
   - Parents are grateful and communicate "beyond"
   - Relationships are calm rather than frantic
   - Parents more supportive
   - Parents consider themselves a "partner"
   - Students are "in the front row"

- Parents are more comfortable communicating – calling, emailing (anytime)
- More private – no one waiting in the hall for a conference
- More accountability – easier to demonstrate the students' progress, participation, time management
- Breaks down the "fear factor" – parents able to let their guard down
- Contact is for "all things – "good things as well as problems"
- Very personal – ability to care and be involved beyond the classroom
- "A collaboration between student, parent & teacher, grounded in a respectful, unbiased learning environment."
- There are parent activities so parents "know" their child's education.
- Relationship is based on "who they are and not what they are".
- Students don't feel like you're making them do the work – you're the tour guide only

5. Does this differ from your relationship with parents/guardians in a traditional school?
   - Parent involvement is better due to students wanting them to know about their accomplishments.
   - Convenience of communication enhances the relationship – don't have to attend a Parent Teacher Conference
   - Traditional setting - there are so many other peripheral duties that impact communication availability
   - PT conferences in traditional setting have to be kept to a minimum, whereas online the communication can be any length.
   - Quality of communication is better
   - Traditional school communication tends to be more for negative situations whereas the online tends to be more positive.

STUDENT ENTRANCE SURVEY RESULTS: PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BY CATEGORY AND ENROLLMENTS

November 15, 2010, N= 4,081

Reason	Male %	Male count	Female %	Female count	High School %	High School count	Middle School %	Middle School count	Elem %	Elem count	Total %	Total count
Drop out recovery	**0.5%**	**19**	**0.3%**	**11**	**0.7%**	**30**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.7%**	**30**
I have dropped out of school and I would like to earn credits toward my diploma	0.1%	5	0.1%	5	0.3%	10	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.3%	10
This course is part of my adult education diploma program	0.3%	14	0.2%	6	0.5%	20	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.5%	20
High risk student	**27.5%**	**1124**	**32.0%**	**1304**	**58.9%**	**2403**	**0.6%**	**24**	**0.0%**	**1**	**59.5%**	**2,428**
I'm re-taking a course I previously failed	9.0%	368	7.8%	317	16.4%	670	0.4%	15	0.0%	0	16.8%	685
I need credits in order to graduate	9.3%	380	13.9%	568	23.2%	946	0.1%	2	0.0%	0	23.2%	948
I need credits in order to graduate on time with my class	8.2%	335	9.5%	389	17.7%	722	0.1%	2	0.0%	0	17.7%	724
Enrolling in this course is an alternative to withdrawing from school	0.8%	32	0.7%	29	1.4%	56	0.1%	5	0.0%	0	1.5%	61
I have been suspended from school and I am required to take this course	0.2%	9	0.0%	1	0.2%	9	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	10
Meet high academic standards	**7.3%**	**297**	**8.9%**	**363**	**13.2%**	**537**	**2.8%**	**115**	**0.2%**	**8**	**16.2%**	**660**
I want to earn advanced placement credit in this course	1.0%	40	1.0%	41	1.8%	72	0.2%	9	0.0%	0	2.0%	81
I want to earn high-school and college credit for this course	4.0%	164	5.3%	216	8.4%	341	1.0%	39	0.0%	0	9.3%	380
I'm an advanced sudent and I'm taking this course before the traditional age or grade level	2.3%	93	2.6%	106	3.0%	124	1.6%	67	0.2%	8	4.9%	199
Require flexible schedule	**11.0%**	**449**	**20.5%**	**838**	**30.6%**	**1247**	**1.0%**	**40**	**0.0%**	**0**	**31.5%**	**1,287**
I want the flexible schedule that online courses provide	6.8%	276	11.6%	475	17.9%	731	0.5%	20	0.0%	0	18.4%	751
I need to work and require the flexible schedule provided by online courses	2.0%	82	2.7%	111	4.5%	182	0.3%	11	0.0%	0	4.7%	193
I need to work from home due to illness or injury	0.8%	33	2.6%	107	3.4%	139	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	3.4%	140
I need to work from home for reasons other than illness or injury	0.5%	22	1.6%	65	2.0%	80	0.2%	7	0.0%	0	2.1%	87
I'm involved in activities that require me to miss traditional school classes (sports, arts, travel, etc)	0.9%	36	2.0%	80	2.8%	115	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	2.8%	116

School limitation	**12.7%**	**517**	**20.6%**	**840**	**31.2%**	**1273**	**2.0%**	**80**	**0.1%**	**4**	**33.3%**	**1,357**
My school doesn't offer this course	4.3%	175	6.4%	262	8.9%	365	1.7%	68	0.1%	4	10.7%	437
I'm working around a scheduling conflict at my school	8.4%	342	14.2%	578	22.3%	908	0.3%	12	0.0%	0	22.5%	920
Meet State mandate	**5.4%**	**219**	**7.3%**	**297**	**12.4%**	**504**	**0.3%**	**12**	**0.0%**	**0**	**12.6%**	**516**
I need to fulfill my school's competency requirements for this subject	4.7%	192	6.0%	244	10.5%	427	0.2%	9	0.0%	0	10.7%	436
I need to meet required technology standards	0.7%	27	1.3%	53	1.9%	77	0.1%	3	0.0%	0	2.0%	80

STUDENT ENTRANCE SURVEY RESULTS: PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS COMMENTS

November 15, 2010, N= 278

Meet High Academic Standards

1 failed algebra 2 twice in one year and my parents and teachers think it would benefit me to try taking it online
2 want to take advanced math next year
3 to improve in language arts
4 SAT prep
5 so I can have my math done with
6 I want to become a nurse
7 I need another science credit to get into the college I'm looking at.
8 to get ready for the SATs
9 I want to continue my Spanish and learn more
10 review
11 I want to fill in the parts I don't understand about in this subject
12 I failed it
13 I want to get ahead so that I can take AP Calculus my senior year.
14 I didn't take it yet
15 I want to be able to graduate with the math level that most Engineering colleges want
16 I wanted to be a step ahead of everyone else by finishing Spanish 3 already but I have no intention of graduating early etc.. and I am doing this willingly because I thought it would be a good idea even though it's not
17 I won the school Spelling Bee since 4th grade. This year I made it to the top 3 in the Nashua Region Spelling Bee. I want to win the State Spelling Bee and go to DC. I'm hoping that Latin will help me become a better speller.
18 I need to improve SAT scores.
19 to brush up before Spanish three
20 Need it to take adv chem
21 taking to replace previous grade and for the learning
22 to replace a lower grade in this previous course
23 better sat scores
24 I'm filling in open time.
25 To attain an academic reward through Nashua North
26 to attain a reward
27 I am advanced so I am taking this course while taking regular classes at middle school.
28 I'm preparing for the SATs in December.
29 Help benefit me for SAT
30 Want to learn
31 I have already taken the course but want a better grade.
32 Took course before but got a C-. Want to improve skills in order to move into higher math.

33 I am taking geometry and can not take this class until I am finished and I do not want to be behind
34 I received a bad grade in this course at my school my Junior year.
35 get ahead
36 I am using this course to help prepare me for Honors Chemistry in the fall
37 enrichment
38 better learning experience
39 I didn't understand the subject that well when I took it at my school so I want more practice with it.
40 prerequisite for ap us history
41 This course will help me with colleges
42 I want to become a doctor
43 This algebra course covers more material and at a faster pace than the algebra at my school
44 Raise SAT Scores
45 I need this course to fulfill my college acceptance requirements.
46 I need a science class for the NH scholars
47 I do not want to take this course next year.
48 I need chemistry to get into the nursing program at my college.
49 I like the Honors option especially because my school offers few honors level classes.
50 My L.A. class was too hard.
51 Going to college early don't want to pay for the course there
52 I like challenging stuff.
53 I hear knowing Latin comes in handy on your SAT's.
54 Want to get ahead in math so I can take Calculus Senior Year
55 I want to receive better sat scores
56 To further my education
57 I love math.

58 My parents and my teachers and the superintendant agreed that this would be a good way for me to expand my knowledge
59 I was put into a level that was a a faster pace than I had previously learned
60 Extra math practice to learn more about math and to help improve my math grade (without getting any credit from my high school.)
61 To further my understanding of the scientific world
62 Good knowledge for SATs and ACTs
63 its helping me
64 Need to prepare for SATs
65 Taken A java course during the summer and I am now interested is continuing with computer programming
66 I want to be able to take Precalculus AP in my freshman year
67 I am good at both music and math so I thought that I would do well in this class
68 more education
69 to improve my grade

70 In order to be at grade-level math I am taking this course.
71 this class helps with what I want to do in life.
72 To help me with math
73 Didn't understand Physical Science Last Year
74 I wanted more AP classes then what is offered at my high school.
75 Failed a class
76 I was placed in a lower level of this class so to catch up I'm taking a higher level
77 I didn't pass the class.
78 I want to learn more about a healthy diet and a healthy life.
79 I want more math credits for collage
80 taking instead of physics
81 taking it so I don't have to do it next year

82 I want to take more subjects and also want to fulfill subject require I'm trying hard to help my self to look good in college.
83 Trying to get a better grasp on the information
84 It's the language I need to take to get me ahead in college and with what I want to do when I'm older.
85 I didn't take this course as a freshman
86 I want to take classes that require getting this out of the way
87 map program
88 to be able to attend NEIA

89 Taking SATs this year
90 I want to translate in Chinese so taking this course is giving me a head start to what I'll be learning in college
91 I don't want to take this course next year.
92 The class was to easy at my school
93 My class was to easy for me.
94 I previously took this course and want to improve my grade
95 Get ready for the SAT!!
96 the colleges I'm looking at require three years of a language
97 to help me get my grades up on math
98 Grade Acceleration
99 I failed the previous coarse I toke in school and thought this would be easier.
100 I missed the first 6 weeks of school

Credit or Graduation Requirement

101 need a gym class
102 I need this this course to graduate
103 I need this credit to graduate

104 went to a school the didn't require this course but my current school requires I take this course in order to graduate

105 I went to a school that didn't require this course and my current school does require this course in order to graduate
106 I'm trying to finish four years of high school in two because of certain situation
107 I'm trying to do four years in two because of a certain conflicts.
108 graduating early
109 extra credit in high school
110 I want to graduate on time
111 To Graduate
112 as credit recovery
113 I need this to graduate
114 need to graduate
115 Grad. Early
116 Dropped chemistry
117 I need credit recovery
118 trying 2 get all my credits
119 To be able to graduate
120 Credit
121 need the extra credit
122 want to graduate
123 I can only have 7 credits per year
124 I need a language credit and was not interested in the ones offered at my school.
125 I need this class to graduate. I was supposed to take it last year but I took a different class instead.
126 I transferred schools and the first high school I went to didn't require this course. The high school I go to now requires it but most took it their freshman and sophomore years.
127 I changed schools and did not receive credit for this class
128 I'm basically trying to do four years in two due to some conflicts with credits
129 I had a conflict in which I was not able to transfer my home-schooled credits to public school so now I'm trying to do four years in two.
130 I need to make up competencies
131 get more credits
132 I moved schools at a weird time. Now I need to take this to get an English credit.
133 need the math credits
134 need the credit
135 I need the credit to graduate with my class.
136 I need to take this class to graduate. My privet school I transferred from didn't offer this class.
137 I need this class subject to graduate
138 Required class to graduate

139	I moved and was short credits so I needed this class to graduate.
140	It's a requirement for me at the high school to graduate.

Flexibility

141	to work at own pace
142	I had a baby so I'm finishing this year on here.
143	I'm finishing this year on here because I had a baby but I'm going back next year
144	I want to do geometry my first year of high school instead of my second.
145	I have a child so this works out
146	need the class to get out of high school so I can raise my son
147	Hockey
148	pregnant and working full time during the day. doing school at night
149	I ride horses and need more time
150	never took it now have no time. this is my best option
151	I'm having a baby and this provides me without having to miss a lot of school
152	Not enough Time.
153	I am in France so I can not take this course at my school this year.
154	Need the flexible schedule of online courses.
155	had a child and trying to make up classes
156	I will be gone for a semester and VLACS had flexible classes for me to take
157	in Spain for the first semester and needed to have school that worked with my public school
158	I ride horses and need the day time to ride and night to do school work
159	early release needed for work.

Medical Issue

160	504 exempt in classroom
161	The teacher at my school wasn't able to help me with my special needs. So I needed an alternative so I can still learn the language I want to learn.
162	I missed a lot of school last year because of mono and it was easier for me to drop out of the class during my freshmen year and take it online to earn my credit.
163	health problems
164	I am having surgery on my wrist
165	I do not have the attention span to sit in a class that doesn't interest me for 52 minutes.
166	Injury
167	Unable to attend school because of a chronic illness.
168	injury
169	had to drop advanced English due to illness
170	health
171	medical reasons
172	I missed this course at my school due to a prolonged illness

173	I have ADHD inattentive type so "thinking and learning" strategies could lead to developing invaluable skills for helping me deal with it.
174	failure due to illness
175	I've missed a lot of school this past year because my mother has been in and out of the hospital all year.
176	I had mono and needed to take this class
177	my therapist said I should take this
178	Missed allot of school.
179	I have a joint disease that doesn't allow me to go to school full time

Personal Preference

180	I like languages
181	My parents made me
182	I want to
183	I wanted to take this course online.
184	I'd rather take it online than at school
185	I wanted to.
186	Dropped a class to take it online instead
187	I enjoy learning things about computers.
188	interesting class
189	computer class
190	I have never done an online course and wanted to try it.
191	I really like technology and am really good with it and would like to learn more :)
192	I find it easy and fun to do online classes.
193	Personal preference
194	I just wanted to try something new
195	I wanted to try an online course
196	I wanted to.
197	I like how it sounds!
198	my real dad is Mexican
199	friend's recommendation

Scheduling Conflict

200	Getting ahead of the math curriculum at my school so I can take calculus senior year.
201	too many study halls
202	wanted to keep going to school every other day.
203	Something to do
204	it will be quicker than taking a course through school
205	wanted to be able to take other classes during school
206	I'm taking this class to remove it from my schedule to make room for more advanced classes.
207	I'm taking this course online so that I will be able to fit more advanced classes.

208	I am taking this class online in order to make room for my upcoming classes.
209	So I could take Horse Science 2
210	I didn't have room in my schedule at my school
211	I cannot fit this class into my schedule.
212	this didn't fit in my schedule
213	I was going to graduate early but I have now made up my mind that I'm going to take this year as a 11th grader I will be taking this class because I would need to next year but I want to take other classes.
214	My schedule didn't fit Spanish III
215	I'm a senior so I cant fit this course into my schedule and most colleges require the class.
216	Could not fit all of my classes in one school day
217	I couldn't fit all of my classes in one school day
218	I could not fit the school's course into my schedule
219	This class is not offered at my school when I can take it.
220	Don't have the time for the in school class
221	Wanted to take more math classes than I could fit into my schedule at school.
222	Making room for theatre
223	It doesn't fit into my schedule with all the other classes I want to take next year.
224	Schedule Issues
225	course wasn't offered at my school.
226	Not offered at our school
227	JROTC fills my school schedule
228	I couldn't fit the in my normal schedule.

School Requirement

229	want to take a lot of electives so I'm taking some required classes online
230	Cooperative Middle school pilot
231	Teacher makes us
232	I am taking this course so that I may be approved to transfer to VLACS.
233	my school is offering us an opportunity to be exposed to online learning.
234	It is a required course to be a member of the Academy of Finance
235	referral from Dir of Curriculum
236	My school is requiring me to take a course
237	Cooperative Middle school pilot program
238	Requirement
239	It is required to take a vlacs course for my school
240	middle school requirement
241	required part of curriculum?
242	The school wanted to try something new.
243	I have to

244	asd requirement

Issue or Conflict with School

245	My work in school is boring.
246	I hate school
247	teacher doesn't teach
248	to get away from all other teachers
249	Didn't want to be lectured by another teacher.
250	Don't like the school teachers teaching methods.
251	Couldn't learn from teacher I was taking it with
252	Don't like the way the other teacher teaches this subject.
253	My parents were not happy with the science program at Concord High
254	my other teacher is very mean and she expects us to know the answers.
255	I had problems with the only 12th grade English teacher
256	I want to take online classes to get out of the school I am in now.
257	I dislike being in the classroom
258	I don't like the schools teaching strategies for math...its confusing
259	got kicked out of two math classes
260	I preferred the online teacher to the school course teacher.
261	My parents don't like the math program at my school.
262	math class in school too slow
263	avoid the teacher who is teaching it
264	not connecting with math teacher
265	to many kids in the class
266	Didn't like the schools offered health class
267	it's better then going back next year
268	I do not like the gym class offered at my school
269	Biology teacher here isn't good.
270	The math teacher at my school was not properly fulfilling my needs as a student.
271	Not comfortable in classrooms
272	The teacher I originally had wasn't the best.
273	I do not feel comfortable taking gym at school.
274	I don't like being in a class room
275	I hate school a lot
276	Would rather take the class online than in school.
277	racism in school
278	there is a lot of racism

SECTION III: APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: ENTRANCE SURVEY, ALL SCHOOLS, BY ENROLLMENT

November 15, 2010, N= 7,022

Reason	Male %	Male count	Female %	Female count	High School %	High School count	Middle School %	Middle School count	Elem %	Elem count	Total %	Total count
Enrolling in this course is an alternative to withdrawing from school	0.80%	56	1.01%	71	1.68%	118	0.11%	8	0.01%	1	1.81%	127
I have been suspended from school and I am required to take this course	0.23%	16	0.07%	5	0.27%	19	0.01%	1	0.01%	1	0.30%	21
I have dropped out of school and I would like to earn credits toward my diploma	0.56%	39	0.78%	55	1.31%	92	0.03%	2	0.00%	0	1.34%	94
I like learning online	13.34%	937	17.47%	1227	25.12%	1764	5.34%	375	0.36%	25	30.82%	2164
I need credits in order to graduate	9.11%	640	14.10%	990	23.11%	1623	0.10%	7	0.00%	0	23.21%	1630
I need credits in order to graduate on time with my class	5.58%	392	6.91%	485	12.38%	869	0.11%	8	0.00%	0	12.49%	877
I need to fulfill my school's competency requirements for this subject	3.66%	257	5.04%	354	8.46%	594	0.24%	17	0.00%	0	8.70%	611
I need to meet required technology standards	0.64%	45	1.03%	72	1.58%	111	0.09%	6	0.00%	0	1.67%	117
I need to work and require the flexible schedule provided by online courses	2.26%	159	3.20%	225	5.10%	358	0.37%	26	0.00%	0	5.47%	384
I need to work from home due to illness or injury	0.94%	66	2.71%	190	3.45%	242	0.20%	14	0.00%	0	3.65%	256
I need to work from home for reasons other than illness or injury	0.78%	55	2.16%	152	2.68%	188	0.27%	19	0.00%	0	2.95%	207
I want the flexible schedule that online courses provide	7.97%	560	13.70%	962	19.54%	1372	2.05%	144	0.09%	6	21.67%	1522
I want to earn advanced placement credit in this course	0.81%	57	0.93%	65	1.52%	107	0.21%	15	0.00%	0	1.74%	122

I want to earn high-school and college credit for this course	3.75%	263	5.04%	354	7.92%	556	0.87%	61	0.00%	0	8.79%	617
I'm an advanced sudent and I'm taking this course before the traditional age or grade level	1.95%	137	2.26%	159	2.62%	184	1.40%	98	0.20%	14	4.22%	296
I'm interested in learning more about this subject	8.49%	596	11.14%	782	15.29%	1074	4.07%	286	0.26%	18	19.62%	1378
I'm involved in activities that require me to miss traditional school classes (sports, arts, travel, etc)	0.94%	66	1.92%	135	2.63%	185	0.21%	15	0.01%	1	2.86%	201
I'm re-taking a course I previously failed	5.84%	410	5.24%	368	10.81%	759	0.27%	19	0.00%	0	11.08%	778
I'm trying to graduate early	3.18%	223	6.25%	439	8.60%	604	0.80%	56	0.03%	2	9.43%	662
I'm working around a scheduling conflict at my school	5.18%	364	8.94%	628	13.93%	978	0.20%	14	0.00%	0	14.13%	992
My guidance counselor/teacher suggested that I take this course	13.60%	955	17.00%	1194	28.62%	2010	1.92%	135	0.06%	4	30.60%	2149
My parent(s) suggested that I take this course	13.97%	981	15.17%	1065	20.81%	1461	7.83%	550	0.50%	35	29.14%	2046
My school doesn't offer this course	3.46%	243	4.96%	348	6.94%	487	1.41%	99	0.07%	5	8.42%	591
This course is part of my adult education diploma program	0.34%	24	0.43%	30	0.71%	50	0.06%	4	0.00%	0	0.77%	54
This course is part of my home school curriculum	7.79%	547	9.58%	673	11.75%	825	5.35%	376	0.27%	19	17.37%	1220

APPENDIX B: ENTRANCE SURVEY, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BY ENROLLMENT

November 15, 2010, N= 4,081

Reason	Male %	Male count	Female %	Female count	High School %	High School count	Middle School %	Middle School count	Elem %	Elem count	Total %	Total count
Enrolling in this course is an alternative to withdrawing from school	0.78%	32	0.71%	29	1.37%	56	0.12%	5	0.00%	0	1.49%	61
I have been suspended from school and I am required to take this course	0.22%	9	0.02%	1	0.22%	9	0.00%	0	0.02%	1	0.25%	10
I have dropped out of school and I would like to earn credits toward my diploma	0.12%	5	0.12%	5	0.25%	10	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.25%	10
I like learning online	9.80%	400	12.62%	515	20.07%	819	2.08%	85	0.27%	11	22.42%	915
I need credits in order to graduate	9.31%	380	13.92%	568	23.18%	946	0.05%	2	0.00%	0	23.23%	948
I need credits in order to graduate on time with my class	8.21%	335	9.53%	389	17.69%	722	0.05%	2	0.00%	0	17.74%	724
I need to fulfill my school's competency requirements for this subject	4.70%	192	5.98%	244	10.46%	427	0.22%	9	0.00%	0	10.68%	436
I need to meet required technology standards	0.66%	27	1.30%	53	1.89%	77	0.07%	3	0.00%	0	1.96%	80
I need to work and require the flexible schedule provided by online courses	2.01%	82	2.72%	111	4.46%	182	0.27%	11	0.00%	0	4.73%	193
I need to work from home due to illness or injury	0.81%	33	2.62%	107	3.41%	139	0.02%	1	0.00%	0	3.43%	140
I need to work from home for reasons other than illness or injury	0.54%	22	1.59%	65	1.96%	80	0.17%	7	0.00%	0	2.13%	87
I want the flexible schedule that online courses provide	6.76%	276	11.64%	475	17.91%	731	0.49%	20	0.00%	0	18.40%	751

I want to earn advanced placement credit in this course	0.98%	40	1.00%	41	1.76%	72	0.22%	9	0.00%	0	1.98%	81
I want to earn high-school and college credit for this course	4.02%	164	5.29%	216	8.36%	341	0.96%	39	0.00%	0	9.31%	380
I'm an advanced sudent and I'm taking this course before the traditional age or grade level	2.28%	93	2.60%	106	3.04%	124	1.64%	67	0.20%	8	4.88%	199
I'm interested in learning more about this subject	7.91%	323	10.61%	433	14.95%	610	3.31%	135	0.27%	11	18.52%	756
I'm involved in activities that require me to miss traditional school classes (sports, arts, travel, etc)	0.88%	36	1.96%	80	2.82%	115	0.02%	1	0.00%	0	2.84%	116
I'm re-taking a course I previously failed	9.02%	368	7.77%	317	16.42%	670	0.37%	15	0.00%	0	16.79%	685
I'm trying to graduate early	2.60%	106	6.64%	271	8.85%	361	0.34%	14	0.05%	2	9.24%	377
I'm working around a scheduling conflict at my school	8.38%	342	14.16%	578	22.25%	908	0.29%	12	0.00%	0	22.54%	920
My guidance counselor/teacher suggested that I take this course	17.72%	723	21.93%	895	37.47%	1529	2.11%	86	0.07%	3	39.65%	1618
My parent(s) suggested that I take this course	9.97%	407	10.73%	438	17.30%	706	3.11%	127	0.29%	12	20.71%	845
My school doesn't offer this course	4.29%	175	6.42%	262	8.94%	365	1.67%	68	0.10%	4	10.71%	437
This course is part of my adult education diploma program	0.34%	14	0.15%	6	0.49%	20	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.49%	20
This course is part of my home school curriculum	1.08%	44	1.37%	56	2.28%	93	0.15%	6	0.02%	1	2.45%	100