



# Case Study

Virtual Learning Academy  
Charter School (VLACS)  
Exeter, NH

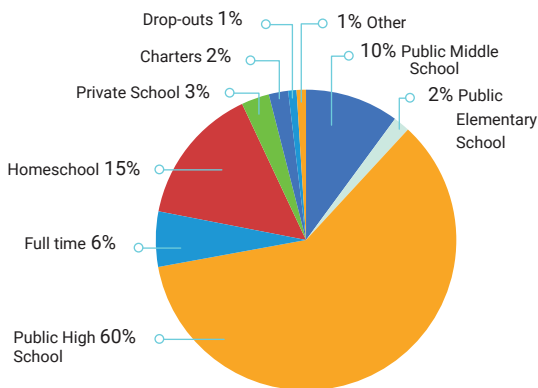


## Promoting Student Ownership Through Career Education

### School Profile

- State-approved Charter School
- Public School
- State-approved
- 5019(c)(3) non-profit organization

### Student Statistics



### Challenge

The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) seeks to promote student ownership of their education by complementing their customized, competency-based learning model with additional career education offerings. By expanding options, they aim to further encourage students to pursue their interests, talents, and passions.

### Solution

VLACS partnered with Harris Digital Learning's career and technical education partner, Pointful Education, to provide students with an opportunity to explore career-related subjects, while empowering them to recognize the limitless job opportunities they can seize. To illustrate student learning, VLACS rewards every student who completes a CTE course with a digital badge.

### Outcome

The CTE courses have made it possible for VLACS students to expand their career education and apply what they learn to real-world experiences. VLACS teachers enjoy seeing the growth of students' abilities through the courses and find that students enrolled in these courses are invested in the field and find the information useful and the assignments relative.

### VLAC Student High School Senior

Thank you for all the time you put into teaching me in this class. I appreciate it so much, and I've learned an unimaginable amount of things that I will continue to use as I get into these fields.

## Challenge

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VLACS has made it possible for their students to expand their career education, apply what they learn to real-world experience, and acquire knowledge that focuses on college and career preparation. When students complete courses, the VLACS goal is to inspire students to further examine and pursue work-based learning opportunities such as job shadows, micro-internships, and informational interviews. To further illustrate student learning, VLACS rewards every student who completes a CTE course with a digital badge. These badges are a digital credential that verifies a student's career-ready skills in an area of expertise. A digital badge is even more specific than a traditional transcript in that it provides a detailed account of a student's advanced studies and training. By completing the career-focused courses, students are prepared to begin post-secondary education, pursue a career, or earn an industry-recognized certification - opportunities that are all possible with Harris Digital Learning's career and technical education partner, Pointful Education.

 **Allison Flint**  
Teacher

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The content is approachable, and the assignments are clear. Having the rubric right there below the instructions helps the students know just what to do, and it saves me a step as well. The varied options for projects keep it interesting and also introduces kids to new presentation platforms. I think the blend of video and reading for the content is good construction is a visual field and demonstrations are effective.

 **Tammie Robbie**  
Teacher

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The delivery of content - the videos that supplement the readings - is engaging.

 **Samantha Bourdreau**  
Teacher

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As an instructor, I am enjoying the course. I find the supporting materials useful and the assignments a good measure of unit knowledge.

## About VLACS

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VLACS is an online program offering a flexible and personalized learning experience for students in grades 4-12 nationwide. During 2018-2019, VLACS served approximately 13,000 students and close to 30,000 half-segment enrollments, making it one of the largest statewide virtual schools in the country. Since opening their virtual doors in 2008, they have made it their mission to ensure that every student has unlimited access to a rigorous education through 21st-century learning. To accomplish this, VLACS offers specialized courses in career-focused areas that empower students to enhance their learning like never before. They believe that every student should have the opportunity to harness the power of online learning to challenge themselves academically, explore untapped areas, and prepare to embark on the journey towards their career.

Learn more at <https://vlacs.org/>