

K¹² TOP 5 MYTHS ABOUT ONLINE SCHOOLS



MYTH #1

Students spend all day staring at a computer and don't interact with people.

Reality: Only about 30 percent of K-8 lessons are strictly online. The percentage is higher for high school. K¹² curriculum relies on printed and/or hands-on materials, particularly in early grades. And, of course, students interact with their teachers, their fellow students in online class sessions and clubs, as well as their Learning Coach (usually a parent).

MYTH #2

Students who attend online schools lack social skills.

Reality: Students in K¹² online schools are very social. They participate in many academic and social outings and activities. These may include offline and online clubs, spelling bees, science fairs, trips to museums, skate parks and zoos, and much more. Since students in online schools tend to have more flexible schedules, parents have the opportunity to guide their involvement in social, church, and community activities. In fact, a recent study showed that full-time online students are at least as—if not more—socialized than students in a traditional setting.

MYTH #3

Online schools don't have to meet the same requirements as brick-and-mortar schools.

Reality: Actually, they do. Our curriculum was developed by experts to meet or exceed states' academic standards, and all of our students are expected to spend time each day engaged in schoolwork. In K¹²-partner public schools, students take standardized tests mandated by your state, just like students in brick-and-mortar schools. Students who graduate from our fully accredited full-time public or private K¹² partner schools receive a U.S. diploma that's accepted at universities in the U.S. and around the world.

MYTH #4

Attending a school online is not challenging enough.

Reality: We have never heard the complaint that our programs are too easy! K¹² schooling is rigorous and appropriately challenging. You can expect that your child will spend 4 to 6 hours per day on coursework and assignments in grades K-8, and 5 to 7 hours per day in high school. Parents (or Learning Coaches) of students in grades K-8 can expect to spend significant time each day supporting their child's education. By high school, a parent's role shifts to the important tasks of mentoring, support, attendance reporting, and progress verification. However, K¹² makes the process of online schooling easy for the Learning Coach by providing a recommended schedule, state-certified teacher support, and all the required materials. Parents don't have to worry about putting together lesson plans, tracking down materials, and so on.

MYTH #5

Students who graduate from online schools can't get into a good college.

Reality: How about Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, UC/Berkeley ... the list goes on. Fact is, K¹² graduates have gone to hundreds of fine institutions of higher learning: from Ivy League schools to the best state universities, from specialized schools of the arts such as Juilliard to demanding vocational programs that meet their needs. One thing we consistently hear from our graduates is how well prepared they feel for higher learning. Why? Because K¹² programs are rigorous, challenging, require independence and critical thinking and good time management, and offer students advantages such as the choice of 21 Advanced Placement[®] courses.

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