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**KAPLAN VIRTUAL EDUCATION EXPANDS ONLINE LEARNING OPTIONS FOR FLORIDA STUDENTS**

*School Districts Throughout State Will Offer Virtual Courses to Meet Student Needs*

Hollywood, FL, September 10, 2009 — Kaplan Virtual Education (KVE) today announced partnerships with three school districts to launch part- and full-time online learning options for students throughout Glades, Polk and Miami-Dade counties this fall. Last year, the Florida Legislature required school districts to offer full-time virtual programs starting during the 2009-10 school year. The virtual public school options will provide middle and high school students with a variety of online courses that feature individualized instruction and an engaging curriculum.

The partnerships will provide online learning alternatives for:

- Sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the **Glades County School District**
- Sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the **Miami-Dade County Public School District**
- High school students in the **Polk County Public School District**

“Kaplan Virtual Education is excited to offer Florida students an education solution that provides rigorous, high-quality courses that can be tailored to meet their unique needs and prepare them for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Charles Thornburgh, president of Kaplan Virtual Education. “Through these partnerships, students can get one-on-one attention from teachers, take advantage of engaging learning tools and study virtually anywhere at any time via the Internet.”

The courses, taught by Florida-certified teachers, will be embedded with audio, video and other innovative teaching tools. They will be designed to cater to different skill levels, facilitate learning and keep students motivated. Teachers will use white boards—the equivalent of a real-time online blackboard—to demonstrate course work. The teachers, who are available to speak with students via instant message, email and telephone, will provide students with one-on-one attention to ensure that they are engaged in their coursework and having a robust educational experience.

KVE courses are designed to help local school districts provide a wider variety of education options and meet the unique needs of individual students. All KVE courses meet Florida middle and high school graduation requirements. Graduating students will receive a diploma from the partner school district.

A recent report on online education, conducted by SRI International for the Department of Education, concluded that “on average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction.” By offering a virtual learning option to students,

these school districts are at the forefront of a growing trend in education. The Hoover Institute predicts that by 2019 half of courses in grades 9 to 12 will be delivered online.

The tuition-free online learning is open to all qualified Glades, Miami-Dade and Polk County students. Student eligibility requirements in Florida are determined by the state and in some cases, by students' respective school districts. Before enrolling in a partnership program, parents and students should carefully review eligibility requirements. The enrollment process of the individual school districts must be completed.

### **About Kaplan Virtual Education**

Kaplan Virtual Education (KVE), a leading provider of online 6 through 12 education, offers flexible, individualized and high-quality curriculum and instruction to promote student success. KVE operates public and private schools that provide a wide variety of accredited learning options for middle and high school students, schools and school districts. Kaplan Academy public schools currently operate in six states: California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Kansas and Idaho. KVE private schools, which are available to students across the nation, include Kaplan College Preparatory School, Kaplan High School and Kaplan University High School. KVE is accredited by AdvancED. For more information, visit [www.kaplanonlineschools.com](http://www.kaplanonlineschools.com).

Kaplan Virtual Education is part of Kaplan Higher Education, which serves more than 100,000 students online and through more than 70 campus-based schools across the U.S. and abroad. Kaplan Higher Education also has online programs through Kaplan University. Kaplan Higher Education schools offer a spectrum of academic opportunities, from high school diplomas to graduate and professional degrees, including a juris doctor degree. Kaplan Higher Education is part of Kaplan, Inc., a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company (NYSE: WPO). For more information, visit [www.portal.kaplan.edu](http://www.portal.kaplan.edu).

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