



# NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

## **Waterford School District Only One of Nine in State to Offer Online Courses through Seat Time Waiver**

**November 17, 2009, Waterford, Mich.** – The Waterford School District will enter into new groundbreaking instruction through the Michigan Department of Education’s Seat Time Waiver. This waiver allows students to forego the State’s seat time requirements and take multiple online courses. The Waterford School District is one of only 9 districts in the State to offer this type of instruction.

The Seat Time Waiver eliminates two provisions currently in place: 1) students must be in attendance on count day and 2) students may take only two online courses. The new programming will allow students to participate in online course work for any or all of their required courses per semester. One way to do that is through the Michigan Virtual School (MVS). Using streaming audio and video, computer animations, e-mail, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and digital portfolios, MVS works in partnership with schools to provide online learning options that supplement what is currently being offered at schools. Students may also utilize online learning through PLATO, which uses individualized instruction, technology-based teaching tools, and standards-driven assessment to facilitate academic learning. A robust mentoring program will also provide students with support.

The Waterford School District is allowed to offer this to 10% of its high school population but will allow a small group of students at Waterford Alternative High School to participate in this program initially.

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