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# Being Principal in My Pajamas—A Journey into the World of Virtual Education and What it Means for the Future of American Education

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**EETC** 2011  
EARLY EDUCATION AND  
TECHNOLOGY FOR CHILDREN

# The Origin of The Title of The Talk



# How I Got Here

- Textbooks and the High School Experience-Why History is boring?
- Emails at an upper end elementary school
- The swipe card at the soda machine in Prague
- What passes for technology in the classroom: The tech test at UTVA and the USU student teaching program



# The Virtual Model

Virtual Education has three basic components:

- On-line Curriculum
- Certified, highly qualified Teacher support
- Physical Support Materials either at home or facility.



# Virtual School Types

What Virtual Schooling is not

## Types of Virtual School:

- “Traditional” Virtual
  - Hybrid Virtual
  - Flex Schools
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# Utah Virtual Academy



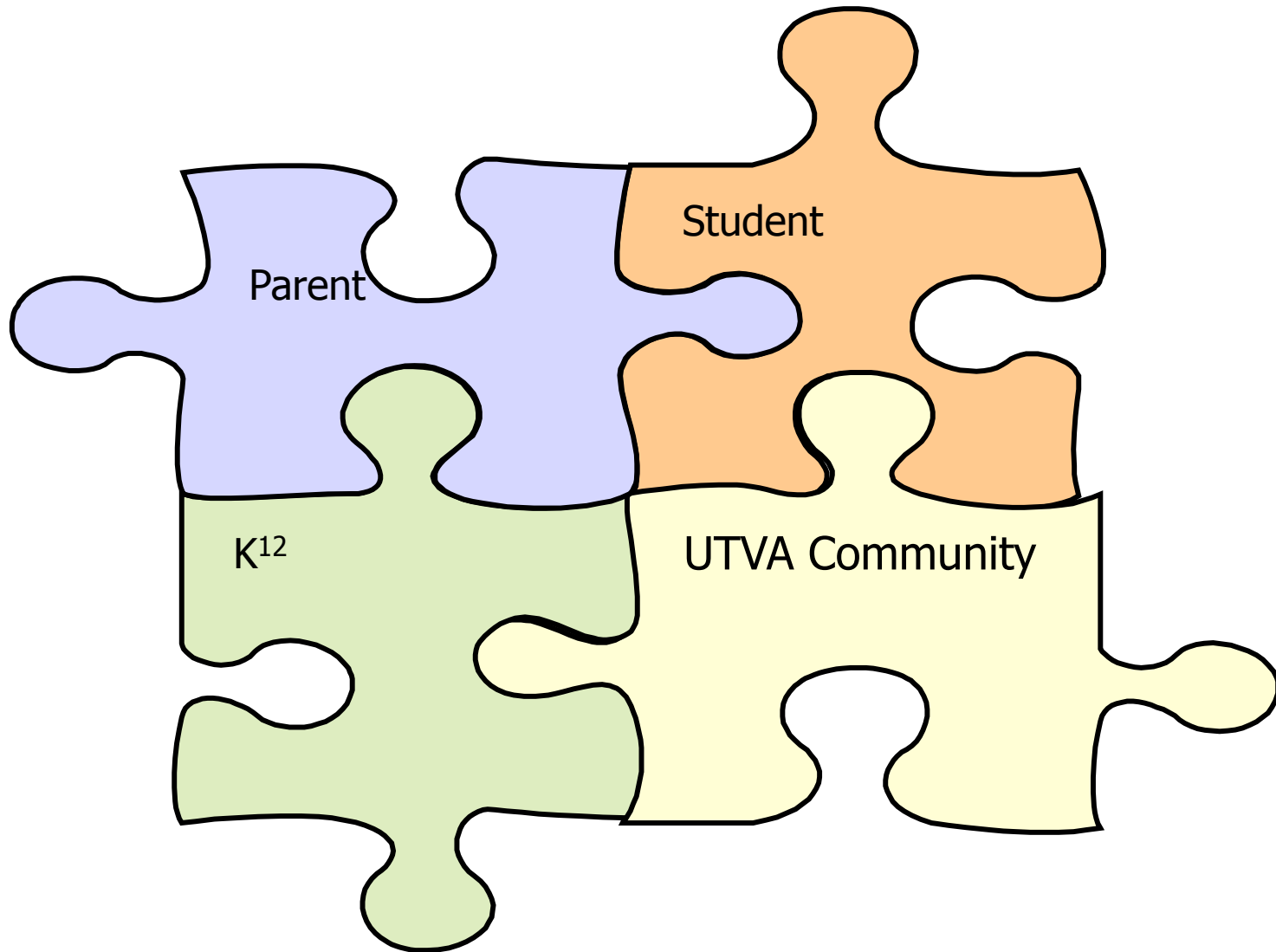
# Utah Virtual Academy

- The first virtual public charter school in Utah.
  - The largest charter school in Utah
  - Managed by K12 Inc (Herndon, Virginia).
  - A full service and fully comprehensive school. Fully Accredited through Northwest Accreditation.
  - Authorizer: Utah State Charter School Board
  - Mastery based (80%).
  - High school program strata and AP offerings
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## **UTVA Life of a Student, Parent and Teacher**

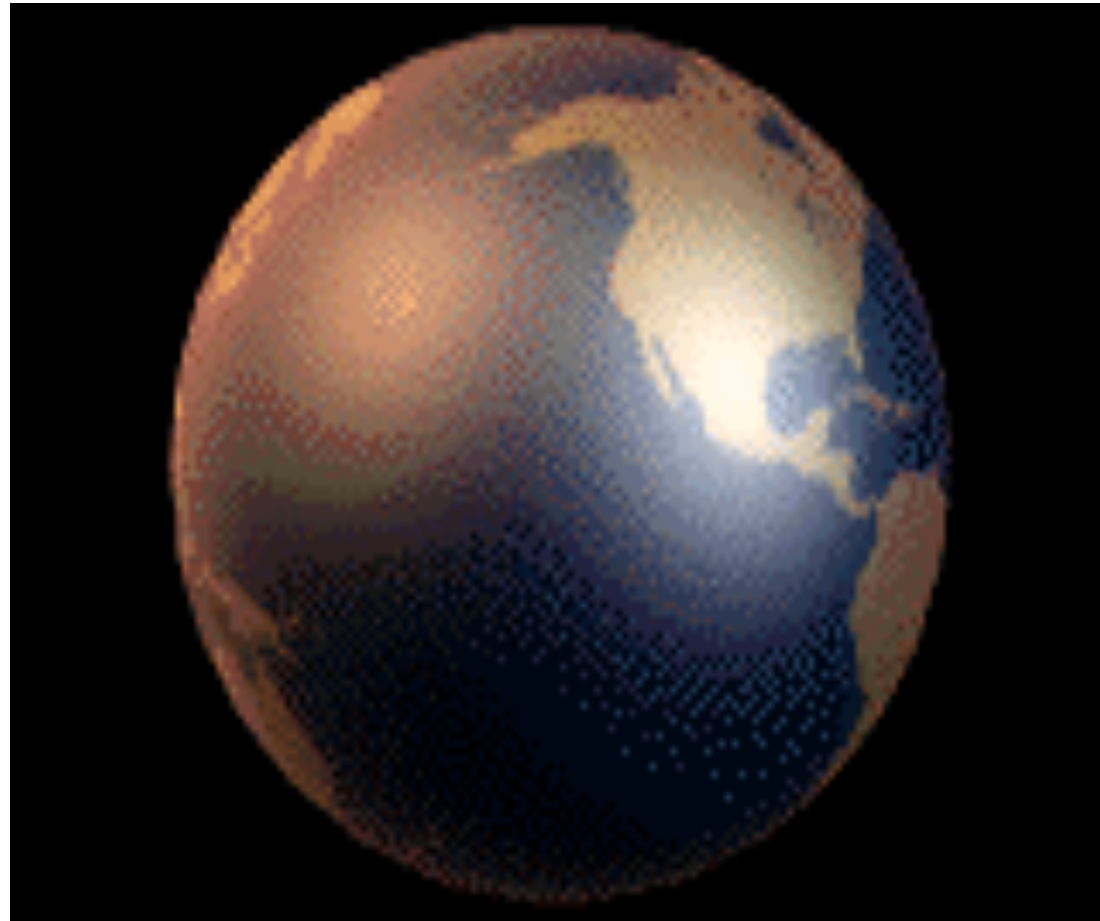
- Expectation of the student
  - Expectation of the Parent
  - Expectation of the Teacher
  - Advantages of a Virtual School
  - Disadvantages of a Virtual School
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# Educating A Future World



# How The World Sees Virtual Education

In Singapore, all staff has two weeks yearly training in virtual delivery, all students from kindergarten to post graduate level must take at least one class ([www.moe.gov.sg](http://www.moe.gov.sg));

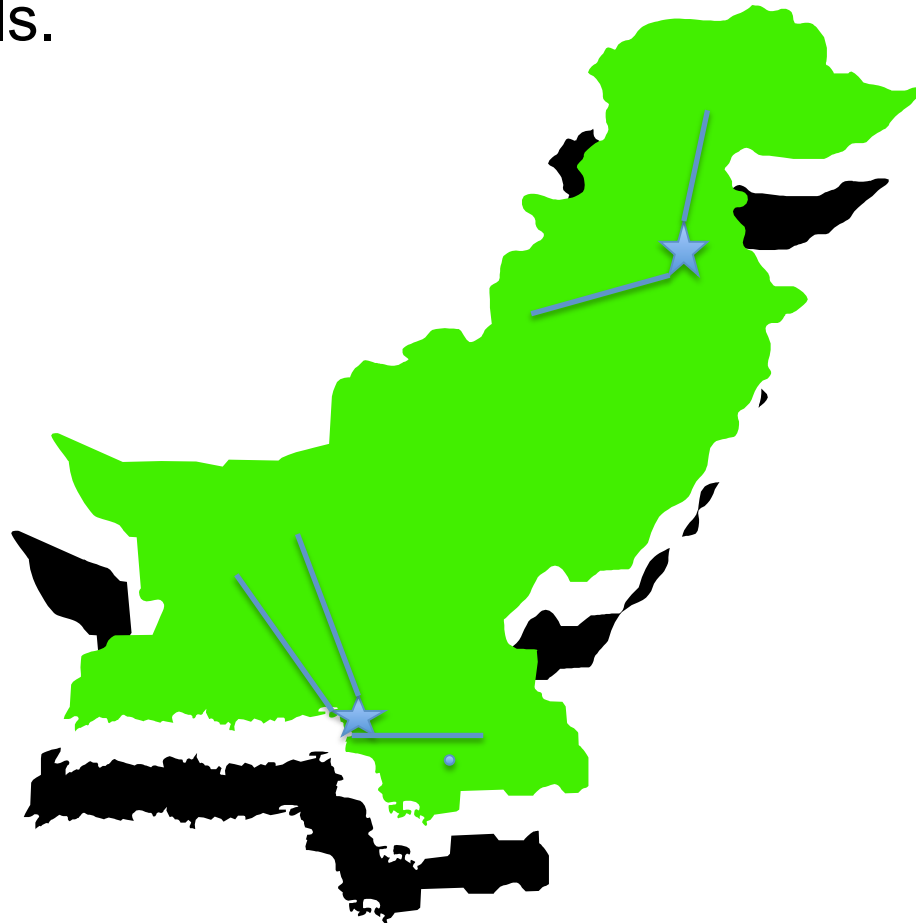
Mexico-Completely digitized its curriculum in 2009

In Britain, BrightSpark Ltd provides tutoring for low income students at a cost of £12 (\$19) an hour through on-line tutors in India (Economist, Nov 18, 2010).  
The Britain-China, Britain-India connection;

Europe-Homeschooling and The Uwe and Hannelore Romeike Case (2009)  
Education as an acculturation model  
Government funded virtual schools

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# Chinese and Pakistani Delegations and the Satellite models.



## Current Models That Can Be Enhanced

- The scaled back village model:  
Draw back (quality teachers)  
Potential: Satellite model
  - One Laptop and how it can change the game
  - Partner country national schools
  - Single and supplemental courses
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# Virtual Education in The United States

- Clayton Christensen-In Disrupting Class, by 2019 50% of all classes will be online.
  - Increased Exponential growth-1.5 million (2009 est.) up from 500,000+ in 2006
  - Current attitudes- 39 statewide programs, the others through districts.
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## Issues Confronting Virtual Education In the U.S.

- Low cost perception
  - Cultural discomfort with the model
  - Job protection
    - Class ratios
    - Less capable veteran staff
  - Private corporation/public funding dilemma
  - State provider/Parent choice conflict
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# Utah-Problems and Promise

- Virtual Education in charters and districts-where they are and how far to go
  - UTVA, OHS, Connections and Alianza (hybrid)
  - Legislation-SB 65 “Statewide Online Education”-Senator Stephenson
  - The Push-slowly but surely
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