



**TO:** Roger Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Brent Gaswick

**SUBJECT:** Virtual Education Policy

**Proposed Board Action:**

Initial exposure of the board to the Virtual Education policy to allow them the opportunity to provide feedback and direct the appropriated board sub-committee to begin further discussions.

**Background Information:**

Freida Lange, Sharon Katt, SuAnn Witt and myself have met to create this initial draft version of a Virtual Education Policy for the board. We felt that it was ready for the board to provide input and additional direction for the eventual formalization of the policy.

**Estimated Cost:**

N/A

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

Draft Version of the Virtual Education Policy

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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# Policy for Nebraska Virtual Education

The Nebraska State Board of Education believes that the use of virtual education can provide quality learning opportunities for all Nebraska students.

It is the goal of the State Board of Education to support the development and implementation of a system for virtual education that uses effective instructional and assessment practices, and creates an environment resulting in high quality outcomes for all learners.

For the purposes of this policy, the State Board defines “virtual education” as those courses and related activities which are realized or carried out chiefly in an electronic medium with access to all learners regardless of location, resources or ability through synchronous, asynchronous or blended delivery models.

The State Board of Education supports the development and implementation of effective virtual education courses which meet accreditation and graduation requirements, and believes that to achieve that goal the following access and quality elements need to be in place.

## ACCESS

- A statewide clearinghouse of courses and learning resources to make options known to systems and learners.
- The technology and infrastructure required to support effective virtual education.
- A range of courses that provide equitable opportunities regardless of geographic, demographic or budgetary challenges.
- Courses that provide options for the range of learner needs, including credit recovery, advance placement and dual credit.
- Incentives that encourage Nebraska systems and certificated teachers to develop and deliver high-quality courses which meet the needs of Nebraska’s learners.

## QUALITY

- Quality Content is determined and maintained through:
  - Statewide leadership working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement effective and research-based instructional designs for course creation and delivery.
  - Involvement of Nebraska educators who align rigorous expectations with Nebraska content standards, graduation, accreditation and accountability requirements.
  - Individual course review completed by a local committee as required in 92 NAC 10 (Section 004.04D2b), or by a statewide committee for approved courses maintained in a statewide clearinghouse.
- Quality Teaching includes:
  - Development of Nebraska Virtual Education Standards (NVES) which define effective virtual education pedagogy and instructional practices.
  - A system of pre-service and in-service educator development based upon the NVES to develop knowledge and skills for effective virtual instruction.
  - A procedure to document educator knowledge and skills related to effective teaching in virtual environments.