



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

FROM: Pat Timm, Chair, State Board Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Policy Statement for Nebraska Virtual Education

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the proposed Policy Statement for Nebraska Virtual Education

Background Information:

The State Board of Education Policy Committee recommends that the State Board approve the proposed Policy Statement for Nebraska Virtual Education. If approved, this Policy will become one of the State Board's General Education Policies.

Estimated Cost:

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

Proposed Policy Statement for Nebraska Virtual Education

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Margaret Worth (402) 471-0310 or email Margaret.Worth@nebraska.gov

Policy for Nebraska Virtual Education

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

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 learners regardless of location and which are broadly available through synchronous, asynchronous or blended delivery models.

The State Board of Education supports the development and implementation of a statewide system coordinating virtual education offered by and through school systems that promotes effective instructional and assessment practices and creates an environment resulting in high quality educational achievement. The State Board of Education also supports the development and implementation of effective virtual education courses that meet accreditation and graduation requirements. In order for such development and implementation to occur, the State Board believes that the following access and quality elements need to be in place:

ACCESS ELEMENTS

- A statewide clearinghouse of courses and learning resources to make options known to school systems and learners.
- The technology and infrastructure required to support effective virtual education offered by and through school systems.
- A range of courses that provide affordable access to instructional programs that otherwise would not be available or can be provided on a more cost effective basis.
- Incentives that encourage Nebraska school systems and certificated teachers to develop and deliver high-quality courses which meet the needs of Nebraska’s learners.

QUALITY ELEMENTS

- Quality course content determined and maintained through:
 - Statewide leadership working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement effective and research-based instructional designs for course creation and delivery.
 - The involvement of educators who are qualified in accordance with Nebraska statutes and regulations and who align rigorous expectations with Nebraska content standards, graduation requirements, and accreditation and accountability requirements.
 - Individual course review completed by a local committee as required in Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10 (Section 004.04D2b), or by a statewide committee for approved courses maintained in a statewide clearinghouse.
- Quality teaching promoted and maintained through:
 - The development of Nebraska Virtual Education Standards (NVES), which define effective virtual educational 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