



Instruction

Distance Learning Policy

Definition

Distance Learning is instruction in which the pupil and instructor are in different locations and interact through the use of computer and communications technology. Distance learning may include video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication or audio instruction between pupil and instructor is instructional television, video telecourses, or any other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous.

Goals

Distance Learning shall be utilized to achieve the following goals:

- (1) Equity in education, which requires that every student in California public schools, and every adult in the state, have equal access to education opportunities, regardless of where he or she lives or how small a school a student attends.
- (2) Quality in education, which would be enhanced through the creative application of telecommunications, as students are given the opportunity to interact with pupils from other cultures and geographical locations, and with outstanding educators from other educational institutions.
- (3) Diversity among educational institutions, which has been recognized in California through the support of various types of public educational institutions as well as of independent and private colleges and universities. Distance learning technology permits greater diversity in the means of instruction and in the delivery of educational and training services to student population that is more and more likely to seek education outside of the traditional baccalaureate program designed for four consecutive years on a full-time basis shortly after graduating from high school.
- (4) Efficiency and accountability, which receive increasing emphasis as state budget resources become increasingly restricted. Distance learning technologies can be effective only through the cooperative efforts of individuals from different institutions, a collaboration that has the potential to reduce costs and increase efficiency. A technology-integrated educational delivery system would allow for the electronic transmittal of files and reports, thus providing the information needed for accountability more rapidly and at a lower cost, and for video teleconferencing for state and local education and other government agencies, thereby diminishing travel requirements.



Instruction

Distance Learning Policy

Objectives

To the extent that funding is made available for this purpose, a coordinated distance learning system should be developed to serve the following high priority education needs:

- (1) The enhancement of work force skills and competency in the adult population.
- (2) The expansion of adult education classes in English as a second language, in response to the growing level of unmet need for that instruction.
- (3) The enhancement of curriculum to meet the needs of high-risk pupils who would be likely to drop out of traditional classroom programs.
- (4) The expansion of course offerings in subjects that include, but are not limited to, foreign languages, science, and mathematics, to schools that are unable to provide the college preparatory and enrichment courses that their students require and that other secondary schools provide.
- (5) The expansion of course offerings at community colleges and off-campus centers to better serve students. This expansion should include courses to better serve students who seek a university-level education.
- (6) The establishment of staff development courses for teachers who otherwise might be unable to participate in training opportunities.
- (7) The enhancement of curriculum through an increased communication capability with colleges, and universities, providing the opportunity for those institutions to receive various types of supplementary educational programs, conduct exchanges with business, industry, and government, participate in live lectures and conferences on special topics, and increase cooperation and communication with other educational institutions.
- (8) The preservation of District curriculum standards.

Distance Learning Course Selection and Development

The Governing Board delegates authority to the Director of Curriculum to evaluate, approve, and offer, on an interim basis, Distance Learning Courses, to students and teachers prior to the Governing Board's final approval. The Governing Board reserves its power to make a final determination regarding each Distance Learning Course.



Instruction

Distance Learning Policy

The Director of Curriculum shall ensure that each Distance Learning Course complies with the Governing Board's existing Board Policies, especially policies regarding instructional goals, objectives, academic standards, use of copyrights, and use of technology in instruction. The Director of Curriculum shall ensure that the Distance Learning Courses are consistent with the philosophy, goals, and objectives of the District.

The Director of Curriculum shall recommend Distance Learning Courses for approval by the Governing Board. The Director of Curriculum shall report to the Governing Board regarding all aspects of each Distance Learning Course, including, but not limited to, course effectiveness, integrity, cost, evaluation, and student access. The Director of Curriculum shall provide all necessary assistance to the Governing Board as the Governing Board considers reports and collects data on each Distance Learning Course under review.

The Director of Curriculum shall name the teacher of record. The teacher of record shall be the on-site California Credential teacher. The teacher of record shall verify attendance (log-on time), provide response to student inquiries, proctor tests, and provide grades for each student. The teacher of record must have knowledge/record of who is supervising a student (minor) while on line. Example: at home/a parent, at another school site/teacher or paraprofessional.

Legal Reference

Education Code

35160 Authority of Governing Board

35160.1 Board authority of school districts

51050-51057 Enforcement of courses of study

51200-51263 Required Courses of study

51720-51879 Authorized classes and courses of instruction

51865 Distance Learning

66940 Distance Learning Policy