



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BRIEFING

Establishment of Virtual School Programs

Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education

Lan W. Neugent

Assistant Superintendent for Technology, Career and Adult Education

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Requirements of Legislation

(SB738/HB 1388)

Virginia Board of Education

- Approve accreditation programs for multidivisional online providers
- Approve criteria and processes
- Hear appeals from unapproved or revoked providers (as necessary)
- Provide annual report to General Assembly/Governor



Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Develop criteria and processes for approval, monitoring, appeals and revocation
- Approve, monitor and revoke (if necessary) online providers
- Provide model policies and procedures for divisions
- Provide objective information about providers on the VDOE Web site



Virginia School Divisions

- Enter into contracts to provide multidivisional online courses and virtual school programs
 - √ course costs/assessments/etc.
- Enroll students in division-offered online courses and programs as public school students
- Ensure provider meets SOA and other requirements of divisions
- Post offerings/programs to division Web site



Virtual School Program – Work Plan Contents

- Key responsibilities of stakeholders
- Online provider accrediting agencies list
- Criteria for approval of multidivisional providers
- Application and application process
 - √ application review rubric
 - √ standards of learning correlation document
- Appeals process for multidivisional providers
- Monitoring process for multidivisional providers
 - √ data reporting template



Virtual School Program Work Plan - 2010

- Develop response to legislation draft document (May to August)
- Vendor and school personnel feedback sessions (August)
- Draft final document based upon feedback (September)
- Board review/approval of accreditation programs (September/October)
- Board review/approval of criteria and processes (October/November)



Virtual School Program Work Plan - 2011

- Launch Virginia Department of Education Web site (January)
- Open provider online application process (February 1); Close Process (March 3)
- Review applications (March/April)
- Approve or deny applications and send notifications (May)
- Applicant resubmission/review/appeal process (ongoing)
- Provider monitoring (ongoing)



Potential Criteria Areas for Multidivisional Online Providers

- Organizational Strengths
- Teacher and Administrator Quality
- Data Management
- Provider Accountability
- Curriculum Design and Effectiveness
- Technological Infrastructure and Support
- Other Indicators of Program Success



Vision for Virtual School Programs

- Anticipate substantial growth of online offerings
 - √ increased access
 - √ scheduling flexibility
 - √ convenience
- High Quality and effective programs needed
 - √ highly qualified, effective teachers/leaders
 - √ rigorous standards-based curricula and meaningful assessments
 - √ engaging resources and reliable technology



Virtual School Program Funding

- Virtual School Program legislation allows school boards to enroll students from outside the division in a multidivisional virtual program
- The General Assembly may wish to consider different funding models (e.g., which composite index to recognize for out-of-division students)