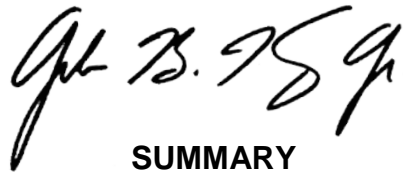




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Ken Slentz
SUBJECT: Online and Blended Learning Panel
DATE: March 4, 2013
AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

To have an updated sense of what virtual (online and blended) learning looks like in P-12 education, the panel below will provide different examples of virtual learning programs and their benefits and achievement outcomes to students currently enrolled in these programs. The panel will also discuss strategies that were used to select the model.

Panel Discussion: **Examples of Online and Blended Learning in P-12 Education**

Panel Members

- **Ty Cesene**, Principal, Bronx Arena High School, New York City Department of Education

Bronx Arena High School utilizes multiple approaches of blended learning to differentiate and personalize the educational experience for over-aged and under-credited students.

- **Ann Collins**, Principal, Hugh Gregg Elementary School, Corning-Painted Post Area School District

Corning-Painted Post Area SD uses the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) MAP computerized adaptive testing system, and the web-based DIBELS Data System, to drive instructional practice and improve student learning.

- **Dr. Kelli Eckdahl**, e-Learning Director, EduTech (Genesee Valley and Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES)

EduTech (an educational partnership between Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and Genesee Valley) is a grantee in NYSED's Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program, which was recently funded through federal Race to the Top dollars. For the past 10 years, EduTech has managed AccelerateU, which offers more than 150 online courses.

- **Dr. Angela M. Nagle**, Superintendent, East Greenbush Central School District

East Greenbush CSD provides distance education classes to students through the BOCES Distance Learning Network, a network of 43 schools that collaborates across 12 counties.

Discussion Questions

- What proportion of your students take courses in an online or blended learning environment, and what are your plans to increase student participation rates?
- What types of learning supports do you provide in a virtual environment?
- What are the challenges and benefits of implementing an online/blended learning environment in your school?
- What types of strategies are used to identify and select professional development activities about virtual instruction for your teachers?
- How are student engagement and motivation levels increased to help students meet their credit and graduation requirements?
- How are the data from the assessments used to propel students above their testing levels?
- How do you evaluate what works in your school's virtual learning environment? How do you define success?
- Where do you see your program in five years?
- What additional policies or regulations would you want NYSED to consider in order to support and strengthen virtual learning in New York State?