

Virtual Education Advisory Committee (VEAC)

Meeting Information

Date: 6/12/19

Location: WDE Zoom Meeting

Committee Members: **Angelique Littlejohn**, Jamie Christensen, Katie Swistowicz, Laurie Davis, **Nish Goicolea**, Representative Freeman, **Richard Parker**, Senator Kost, **Shannon Siebert**, Steve Hopkins, **Tanya Sisneros**, Zeta Anderson

WDE: Shelley Hamel, John Bole, **Kim Morrow**, **Laurel Ballard**, Robin Grandpre, **Lori Thilmany**, **Leslie Zimmerschied**

Guests: Bob Jensen, **Jody Rakness**, Tim Hancock, Molly Mulcahy, Whitney Romrell, William Johnston, **Jarrold Hogue**, **Ben Smith**

*(Names in **bold** indicate meeting attendees)*

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Virtual Education Updates
 - a. Accreditation Status
 - b. Application and Renewal Submissions
 - c. WDE728 Virtual Education Vendor Teacher Collection
 - d. VEAC Membership Nominations
3. [House Enrolled Act 0118](#) Amendment Draft
4. Remote Education Information Sheet Draft
5. Chapter 41 Rules Revisions Draft

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Notes

Virtual Education Updates

- Accreditation Status
 - Each of the districts with virtual education issues initially flagged as potential accreditation concerns were able to resolve each item in question. The majority of the issues stemmed from incorrect reporting on the WDE684 WISE Teacher/Course/Student Data Collection.
- Application and Renewal Submissions
 - Thirteen districts submitted the virtual education application and renewal forms to be eligible for the Distance Education Grant application cycle for the 2019-20 school year.
 - The Distance Education Grant application became available 5/3/19 and will be open until 7/10/19.
 - Districts will have until 7/31/19 to submit syllabi for any new courses, the WDE638 with the 2019-20 virtual education classes, and any remaining application documents including student/parent handbooks for the three statewide programs.
- WDE728 Virtual Education Vendor Educator Collection
 - The WDE728 opened on 5/13/19 and is scheduled to close at the end of the month (6/28/19).
 - This is the second year of this collection to provide districts a means to report virtual education teachers not employed by the district. Prior to the 2017 changes to statutes, all distance education teachers had to be employed by the school district offering the distance course.
- VEAC Membership Nominations
 - The members looked at the draft survey that will be sent for VEAC members to make recommendations to replace some of the open seats on the VEAC.
 - Suggestions were made to improve the form to include additional information in the form description and about the experience of the people being suggested.

House Enrolled Act 0118 Amendment

- The way House Enrolled Act 0118 was written is specific to agreements between two districts. Because of that specificity, the law doesn't allow remote education to occur between two schools within a single district.
- The proposed amendment would revise the statute to include remote education agreements between two schools within a district.
- At the 4/10/19 VEAC meeting, both Senator Kost and Representative Freeman thought this was an oversight and agreed an amendment was needed.
- Following up from the meeting, Senator Kost contacted the Legislative Service Office to draft the amendment which we will review as a group.
- The amendment is essentially creating a new subsection in W.S. 21-13-330 with the same requirements and responsibilities between schools as were established between districts in subsection (m) of the new legislation minus the tuition agreements.
- Discussion about the amendment revolved around whether or not a formal agreement as proposed in the amendment is needed between two schools within the same district.
 - An example was provided of middle school students taking classes at the brick and mortar high school as that is another example of a concurrent enrollment happening between two schools in the same district. In the example, the district allows for students to accelerate to higher level classes through district policy. In remote education, it may not be higher level classes but an instance of a high school level class being delivered from one high school to another.
 - In the example, the ADM stays at the middle school because that is where the student's primary enrollment is located. That is exactly the same as remote education (or any other type of K-12 concurrent enrollment classes) should be managed.
 - In the example provided, there is not a formal agreement between the two schools but there is a district policy that allows for middle school students to take high school classes. Even without a formal agreement, each of the schools follow the steps outlined in the amendment.
 - Are verbal agreements between schools sufficient? Are written agreements needed? The amendment doesn't specify this requirement so verbal agreements will probably be sufficient.

Draft of Remote Education Information Sheet

- Lori explained the document and its purpose. The first section serves as a definition of remote education based on the specific details provided in W.S. 21-3-330(m).
- One main distinction of remote education as compared to virtual education is that it has to be delivered synchronously in real time to allow the remote education students to interact with the teacher and other students during the class delivery.
- Another main distinction between virtual education and remote education is that students taking remote education classes need to do so from a traditional brick and mortar setting for attendance tracking purposes.
- Discussion ensued regarding whether or not students who are homebound pursuant to W.S. 21-4-402 would be eligible to take remote education classes from home. Lori will check on the information regarding whether or not districts who have students who meet eligibility for homebound instructional services also have to meet remote education statutory requirements. In other words, the question to be answered is whether or not students who are homebound can take remote education classes since they will not be in attendance at a brick and mortar school.

Chapter 41 Rules Revisions

- The group reviewed the draft of the revised Chapter 41 Virtual Education Rules to incorporate the changes needed based on [House Enrolled Acts 0005](#).
- In addition to the revisions based on HEA5, this will be time to remove any unnecessary language such as the term limits for VEAC members and the “Course Sections” definition.
- No revisions are needed in the rules regarding remote education.

Other

- Lori asked Angelique if she was able to get her questions answered that were raised during the April meeting. Angelique said the questions had been answered by her district, Niobrara 1.
- Ben Smith asked the VEAC for any help that can be provided with separating Wyoming Connections Academy data from the brick and mortar students enrolled in Rocky

Mountain Elementary School, Rocky Mountain Middle School, and Rocky Mountain High School.

- There is state assessment and accountability subreporting happening based on the 2017 statute changes but Ben is asking for further separation in the school report cards and performance reports so the district knows exactly how the virtual education students are performing and how the brick and mortar students are performing.
- Based on the 2017 statute changes, graduation rates will be separated out starting with the graduating class of 2020-2021.