



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R Berlin*  
**SUBJECT:** Online Learning Advisory Council  
**DATE:** September 9, 2015  
**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Information Purposes Only**

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#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State Legislation

#### **Background Information**

At the request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources as a part of the 2013-14 Legislative Session a bill was passed to create an Online Learning Advisory Council. The statute required the Council be comprised of 11 members of whom two members are nominated from the executive, two by the senate, two by the assembly and the remaining members appointed by the commissioner of education. The council membership was designed to represent diversity of experience throughout the state and include demonstrated experience in development, programming and use of online technology and blended learning for education in public schools, delivery of online education in rural communities, regional educational services, teaching with online and blended learning program and institutions of higher learning that train teachers about online and blended educational instruction.

The council is charged with submitted recommendations on or before October 1, 2015. The recommendations requested of the advisory council have to include, but are not limited to:

- a) Guidance for use of a statewide online and blended learning network;
- b) Best practices and model school district policies from throughout the state and nation that may be considered by school districts in the

- implementation of an online land blended learning program including broadband access;
- c) Academic programming suited for online and blended learning;
- d) Partnerships with institutions of higher education and other relevant stakeholders for workforce opportunities using online and blended learning; and
- e) A review of teaching and professional development policies and practices.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

The draft plan will be completed for the Commissioner's review in late September. A draft of the report will be delivered to the governor, senate, and assembly for their review by October 1, 2015. A comment period will be open from October 1, 2015 through November 1, 2015 prior to completion and delivery of the final report by November 20, 2015. A presentation with recommendations will be provided to the Board of Regents at the November meeting.