



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

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Angelica Infante-Green *A. Infante*
SUBJECT: Online Learning Advisory Council
DATE: December 7, 2015
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SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Online Learning Advisory Council Co-Chairs will provide an overview of the recommendations.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by state statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Regents P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the December 2015 meeting.

Background Information

The Commissioner established an Online Learning Advisory Council in accordance with Chapter 513 of the Laws of New York 2014 (<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S5509C-2013>). The Council was created to make recommendations on establishing a statewide online and blended learning network. The advisory council was charged to issue a report on October 1, 2015, with recommendations on:

- (a) Guidance for use of a statewide online and blended learning network;
- (b) Best practices and model school district policies to inform implementation of an online and 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.

Recommendation

The Online Learning Advisory Council recommends the Board of Regents works collaboratively with the Commissioner of Education, Legislators, and Executive to support and implement recommendations that are part of the Council draft report as follows:

Recommendation #1: The Online Learning Advisory Council recommends that the Legislature and Governor allocate \$100 million to support multiyear professional development grants. These grants will support both planning and implementation to expand development of instructional skills using online tools in classrooms, and online course availability and capacity.

Recommendation #2: The Online Learning Advisory Council recommends that the Board of Regents, Legislature and Governor grant authority to the NYS Education Commissioner to provide certain waivers of regulations to support Innovation Networks.

Recommendation #3: The Online Learning Advisory Council recommends that the state adequately staff and support NYSED's Education Technology capacity and resources. The purpose is to bring forward innovations in online education and educational technology.

Recommendation #4: The Online Learning Advisory Council recommends higher education systems develop teacher preservice experiences in online and blended learning.