

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes to update, expand, and examine the use of digital and online learning in K-12 schools.

- 1 Technology strategies.** Minn. Stat. § 122A.18, subd. 3a. Directs all postsecondary institutions offering teacher preparation programs approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching to include in their preparation programs the knowledge and skills teacher candidates need to deliver digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology.

Makes this section effective for candidates entering a teacher preparation program after June 30, 2014.
- 2 Effective staff development activities.** Minn. Stat. § 122A.60, subd. 1a. Requires staff development activities related to enhancing teacher content knowledge and instructional skills to accommodate the delivery of digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology.

Makes this section immediately effective.
- 3 Staff development outcomes.** Minn. Stat. § 122A.60, subd. 3. Includes effective delivery of digital and blended learning and curriculum and engaging students with technology among specified staff development goals.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 4** **Definitions.** Minn. Stat. § 124D.095, subd. 2. (a) Defines "digital learning" as learning facilitated by technology that offers students an element of control over the time, place, path, or pace of their learning.
- (b) Defines "blended learning" as a form of digital learning that occurs when: a student learns part-time in a supervised physical setting and part-time through digital delivery of instruction; or a student learns in a supervised physical setting where technology is used as a primary method to deliver instruction.
- (c) Clarifies the definition of "online learning" to indicate it is a form of digital learning delivered by an approved online learning provider.
- (d) Amends the definition of "online learning provider" to indicate that the provider must be approved by the Department of Education to provide online learning courses.
- (e) - (j) Make technical changes.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 5** **Online learning parameters.** Makes technical changes.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 6** **Department of Education.** Minn. Stat. § 1124D.095, subd. 7. (a) Requires the education department to review and approve or disapprove digital learning providers within 90 calendar days after receiving a provider's application. Clarifies a process for approving or disapproving and reviewing online learning providers.
- (b) Requires providers other than an enrolling school district offering digital learning to its students to give the commissioner written assurances about course offerings.
- (f) Allows the department to review complaints about a provider and to withhold funds or require a compliance plan if the department determines that a provider violated a law or rule.
- Makes this section effective immediately.
- 7** **Online Learning Advisory Council.** Directs the Online Learning Advisory Council, by June 30, 2013, to develop and maintain a catalog of publicly available digital learning content currently aligned to Minnesota academic standards. The catalog shall include:
- an index of Minnesota academic standards with which curriculum is aligned;
 - a method for students and teachers to provide evaluative feedback; and
 - a plan for ongoing maintenance.
- Directs the Online Learning Advisory Council to recommend methods for including student performance data on the digital resources within the catalog. Directs the council to report to the legislature within three months of enactment on a recommended student performance data collection process.
- 8** **Use of revenue.** Minn. Stat. § 126C.15, subd. 1. Allows basic skills revenue to be used to meet students' needs related to digital learning.
- 9** **Online Learning Advisory Council report.** (a) Directs the Online Learning Advisory Council to review Minnesota rules and laws to determine which, if any, inhibit online learning. Requires that the results of this review be included in a report to the legislature.
- (b) Requires the council to report to the legislature by June 30, 2013 any recommendations and any proposed legislation.
- 10** **Appropriation.** Makes a onetime general fund appropriation of \$104,000 in fiscal year 2013 to the

Minnesota Department of Education and increases the department's base funding by \$26,000 in fiscal year 2014 and later.