

Contract Considerations for Online School Programs

Contracts for online school programs include the complete operation of an online school program featuring a comprehensive and sequential program of classes or grade-level coursework. Either the district or the program provider provides online teachers for the courses offered through the program.

Staffing

- Who hires and manages the teachers?
- Who hires and manages the administrators?
- Who provides initial and ongoing training for online teachers?

Financial

- Are costs and revenue clearly defined?
- Is it clear who gets paid for what?
- If the program serves non-resident students, does this change district finances (levies, small school funding, etc)?

Exclusivity

- Is this an exclusive arrangement, or can the provider open similar programs in other Washington districts?

Student Data

- Does the provider's system integrate with the district's student information system?
- Who is responsible for processing paperwork (eg, "choice" transfers)?

Duration

- Program contracts tend to be multi-year arrangements, representing the investment that both sides bring to the table.

State reporting and legal considerations

- Are the contracting rules being followed?
- Is it clear who is doing what in terms of reporting (ALE, financial, personnel)?
- Which party is responsible for providing special education services?