

Online Learning Advisory Committee

October 22, 2010

**FALL 2010 APPROVAL CYCLE:
PROCESS AND TIMELINES**

Technical Assistance for Applicants

- Website with extensive documentation
- Optional webinars for applicants
- Individual attention via phone, email, and meetings

Timelines

- July 1: Application open
- September 1: Applications due
- September 1-27: OSPI technical review
- September 27-28: In-person training and review
- October 15: Applicants notified
- November 5: Appeals due
- OSPI has 45 business days to score and respond to appeals

**FALL 2010 APPROVAL CYCLE:
CHANGES**

Definitions: Online Course

- Goal: cut down on confusion
- Added language on role of teacher
- Added language defining “remote location”

Definitions: Online School Program

- Goal: better determine who meets definition
- Focused on nature of a “sequential program” rather than if “more than half of the program” is online

Approval for district programs using multidistrict online program providers

- New option allows programs to “align” approval status to program provider
- Program provider must provide:
 - Course content
 - Access to a learning management system
 - Online teachers (possessing Washington state certification)
- No evidence submission required
- Extra assurances are required

Scoring: Old Process

- 5 reviewers per application
- Reviews completed independently
- High and low scores removed
- 3 remaining scores averaged

Scoring: New Process

- 3-4 reviewers per application
- Reviews completed independently
- Protocol for reviewers to share scores/notes and update scores/notes, if necessary
- Goal was not consensus, but shared understanding of criteria and evidence

**FALL 2010 APPROVAL CYCLE:
APPLICATIONS AND RESULTS**

Applications

- 18 Applications
- 16 Reviews
- 2 Applications aligned to program providers

Reviewers

- 16 reviewers
- 7 returned from the first round
- 2 to 4 applications per reviewer

Next Steps

- Appeal Process
 - Providers able to submit evidence for criteria that scored less than a full point
 - New review team
 - Same scoring protocol (but done online)
 - 13 applicants eligible for appeal + 1 affiliate applicant
- Approved providers added to website once appeal process is complete
- Approval is effective for 2011-12

Spring 2011 Review Cycle

- Added to give providers more opportunities
- Required WAC change
- Applications open Jan. 1 – Jan. 30
- Initial decisions by April 1

POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES

Background

- Goal: quality online providers operating in Washington
- Challenge: few providers initially approved

Criteria

- Analyzed scores per each criterion
- Examined lowest-scoring criteria
- Examined criteria with high rates of 0 and .5 scores

A5

- “Readability levels, written language assignments, and mathematical requirements appropriate for the course content.”
 - Currently a demo-reliant item.
- Reviewers had hard time finding readability levels in demos and other evidence.
- Recommendation: removing reviewer requirement to examine course demos for this item. (Providers still need to provide documentation.)

A14

- “Aligned as appropriate to OSPI's [Educational Technology Standards](#).”
- Many providers aren't aligning to WA's OSPI Ed Tech standards.
- Recommendation: append “or to the [ISTE NET 2007](#) standards.”

C5

- “Grading rubrics and models of partially- to fully-completed assignments available to the students.”
- Reviewers didn’t find evidence of “models.”
- Recommendation: omit phrase “models of partially- to fully-completed assignments.”

D3

- “Availability of results of peer review and student evaluations of courses.”
- Reviewers didn’t find results to be made available. (But reviews are being done.)
- Recommendation: omit requirement for the results of reviews to be made available. Rewrite to focus on conducting peer review and student evaluations.

Section F

- Is “Mentor” the right term?
- Other options:
 - School-based support
 - Facilitator
 - Advisor
 - Coordinator
 - Counselor
 - Other?

F2

- “The means for mentors to support student success, including: ability to view course content; technology troubleshooting information; online participation tracking and grading systems; online mentor handbook and policies; and frequent and unsolicited engagement by the course instructor.”
- Reviewers weren’t finding all items listed.
- Recommendation: Re-word item to remove exclusivity of the list of supports (“*supports may include...*”).

Other low-scoring criteria

- A8, A9, A13, D4, E4, F1, F3, G3, G6, I1, I4, I5
- Recommendations:
 - No adjustment to criteria
 - Reinforce with applicants the need to show evidence to meet criteria

Cut Score

- Current cut score: 46 points (85%)
- Keep it the same or change it?

DISTRICT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Background

- [RCW 28A.250.050](#) requires school district boards of directors to adopt a policy and procedures regarding online courses and online learning programs
- Due from all districts on Sept. 15
- DLD reviewing procedures
- Report on compliance and content due Dec. 1

School submissions:

- 211 (71%) submissions of both policy and procedures
- 22 (7%) policy only
- 63 (21%) Un-submitted
 - all contacted by phone
- Total: 295 districts + WA St. School for the Blind

Observations

- Activity has increased awareness and depth of thought around online learning
- Increased interest from years past
- Pushback from a few districts

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Task Force on Special Education and Online Learning

- Why the task force?
 - OCR complaint
 - Clarification of law
 - Assurance of non-discriminatory practices
 - Sharing of processes
 - Need for guidance for online schools
 - Need for guidance for school districts

Task force members from:

- OSPI
- Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights
- Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Attorney General's office
- School districts
- Online learning providers

Results

- Special Education Guidelines for Online Schools
- digitallearning.k12.wa.us/about/districts/special_education
- Covers:
 - Recruitment
 - Admission
 - Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Outreach

- OSPI bulletin to districts
- Emails to online providers
- In-person sessions at ESDs
- Webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 26

EQUITY AND OSPI

ASSESSMENT

Issues

- Students in online school programs take the state assessments (MSP/HSPE) at lower rates than students in brick and mortar schools.
- Logistical challenges
- Reimbursement rates
- Parent/student communication

STATE UPDATE

WEBSITE TOUR

What's new?

- Parent FAQs:
digitallearning.k12.wa.us/about/parents/faq.php
- District Responsibilities:
digitallearning.k12.wa.us/about/districts/responsibilities
- Approval Section Changes:
digitallearning.k12.wa.us/approval/process
 - List of NWAC-accredited providers
 - Affiliated provider application info
- “Support” is now “Training and Support”

Coming soon...

- Homepage changes
 - More focus on parent/student and district resources
 - More clarity about the DLD
- Parent “help” guides

Courses Stats: Since last year...

- 19% more schools signed up for courses access
- 35% more students w/ access to courses
- 32% more enrollments, year-to-year (Aug/Sept/Oct)
- 09-10 total: 1210 enrollments
- 10-11 to date: 1144 enrollments

NEXT MEETINGS