

ALE Changes for 2013-14

August/September 2013

OSPI Contacts

- General ALE guidance:
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 - (206) 616-9940
 - digitalllearning.k12.wa.us/ale/
- Enrollment reporting (P223 & SAFS ALE):
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ALE Resources

- digitallearning.k12.wa.us/ale
 - Annotated rules, forms, and FAQs
 - Rule revisions
 - Summary of changes
 - Webinars
 - ALE Mailing List

Agenda

- ESSB 5946
- ALE Rule Changes
- ALE & HQT

Questions? Write them in the Question box.

ESSB 5946

ESSB 5946

- Omnibus education bill that covers:
 - Part I – Learning to Read
 - Part II – Requiring the LAP program to be evidenced based
 - Part III - Student Discipline
 - Part IV – Educator Support Program
 - Part V – Alternative Learning Experiences

apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5946

5946: ALE Definition

- Redefines ALE as three *course* types rather than three *program* types. (502)
 - Online course
 - Site-based course
 - Remote course

(No longer based on program type:
online, parent partnership, contract-based)

5946: ALE Funding

- Allows funding for all three course types for grades K-12. (502)
- Funds ALE FTEs at the “estimated statewide annual average allocation per full-time equivalent student in grades nine through twelve in general education, excluding small high school enhancements...” (503)
 - Non-vocational “Running Start” rate
 - Excludes funding enhancements for skills center and CTE students.
- \$5,296.73 per FTE (grades K-12) for 2013-14

5946: High School Credit

- Requires that high school ALE courses meet district or state graduation requirements and be offered for high school credit. (502)

5946: Transfers

- Directs OSPI to create a “standard form” which must be used when students “choice” transfer for the purposes of enrolling in an online school program. (508)
- Adds transferring to an online program as one of the reasons a district shall release a student seeking a choice transfer. (510)
- Allows non-resident districts to deny choice transfer requests if a “student has repeatedly failed to comply with requirements for participation in an online school program...” (511)

5946: Transfers

- “A school district offering or contracting to offer an alternative learning experience course to a nonresident student **must inform the resident school district if the student drops out** of the course or is otherwise no longer enrolled.” (502)

5946: Biennial Audit

- From 2013-14 to 2016-17, requires districts to “pay costs associated with a biennial measure of **student outcomes** and **financial audit** of the district's alternative learning experience courses by” the State Auditor’s Office. (502)

5946: Reporting

- “Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, school districts must designate alternative learning experience courses as such when reporting course information to” CEDARS. (502)
 - Element E09 (“ALE Funded”) in the student schedule file indicates whether or not the student is receiving ALE funded instruction for the course being reported.
 - Element H27 (“ALE Funded”) in the student grade history file also indicates whether or not the student is receiving ALE funded instruction for the course being reported.
 - Elements B22 and B23 indicate if a student is enrolled in ALE part-time in addition to either being enrolled in an approved private school or home schooled.
 - k12.wa.us/CEDARS/Manuals.aspx
- Not (yet) reporting course types into CEDARS
- SAFS year-end ALE report will ask for % of course types

5946: Online Definition

- Adds to the “online course” definition:
 - A certificated teacher has the primary responsibility for the student's instructional interaction. Instructional interaction between the teacher and the student includes, but is not limited to, direct instruction, review of assignments, assessment, testing, progress monitoring, and educational facilitation; and
 - Students have access to the teacher synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

5946: MSP Waiver

- Allows online school programs to request a waiver from OSPI to administer the MSP (gr. 3-8) test on an alternate schedule. (509)

5946: Accreditation

- Allows “candidates for accreditation” at NWAC/AdvancED to meet the accreditation requirement prior to applying for OSPI online provider approval. (505)

5946: Repeals 28A.150.262

- Repeals RCW 28A.150.262 regarding online ALE programs and moves the still relevant portions elsewhere. (516)
 - Note: many parts of 5946 that look new aren't really – they've just been reorganized

RULE CHANGES

Rule Change Process

- “Emergency” rules are effective for the 2013-14 school year.
 - Currently posted on digitallearning.k12.wa.us/ale
- Permanent rule change process
 - Includes opportunity for public comment

Rule Change Process

- Send written comments by 9/25/13 to:
Becky McLean
Old Capitol Bldg PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
becky.mclean@k12.wa.us
- Hearing, 9/25/13, 1pm
OSPI
Old Capitol Bldg
600 S Washington
Olympia, WA 98504

(3)(a)(i) "Alternative learning experience"

Old:

- (ii) The broad categories of alternative learning experience programs include, but are not limited to:
 - (A) On-line programs as defined in [RCW 28A.150.262](#);
 - (B) Parent partnership programs that include significant participation and partnership by parents and families in the design and implementation of a student's learning experience; and
 - (C) Contract based learning programs.

(3)(a)(i) "Alternative learning experience"

New:

(ii) The categories of alternative learning experience courses are:

- (A) "Online course" means an alternative learning experience course that has the same meaning as provided in RCW 28A.250.010.
- (B) "Remote course" means an alternative learning experience course or coursework that is not an online course where the student has in-person instructional contact time for less than twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course.
- (C) "Site-based course" means an alternative learning experience course or coursework that is not an online course where the student has in-person instructional contact time for at least twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course.

“Online Course” (392-502-010)

- (2) "Online course" means a course, or grade-level coursework, in which:
- (a) More than half of the course content is delivered electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods; and
 - (b) More than half of the teaching is conducted from a remote location through an online course learning management system or other online or electronic tools; and
 - (c) A certificated teacher has the primary responsibility for the student's instructional interaction pertaining to the online course. Primary responsibility means the teacher is the principal individual who provides instructional interactions that may include, but are not limited to, direct instruction, review of assignments, assessment, testing, progress monitoring, and educational facilitation; and
 - (d) Students have access to the teacher synchronously, asynchronously, or both.

Non-online ALE courses

Remote = *in-person instructional contact time* for **less than twenty percent** of the total weekly time for the course.

Site-Based = *in-person instructional contact time* for **at least twenty percent** of the total weekly time for the course.

Other changes to “ALE” definition

- ALE is defined as a “course”
 - Or, for K-8, “grade-level coursework”*
 - “that is a delivery method for the program of basic education”

* “Coursework”

- Not structured into subject-specific courses
- Single course that encompasses all the material a student is expected to learn (e.g. “3rd Grade”)
- *Not* intended to include experiences that are smaller in scope than a typical course

What hasn't changed in (3)(a)(i)?

- ALE is “provided in whole or in part independently from a regular classroom setting or schedule...”
- ALE is “supervised, monitored, assessed, evaluated, and documented by a certificated teacher...”
- ALE is “provided in accordance with a written student learning plan that is implemented pursuant to the school district’s policy and this chapter.”

Section 4: ALE Program Requirements

(a) WSLP

(b) Weekly Contact

(c) Monthly Evaluation

(4)(a) Written Student Learning Plans

- WSLP must be “developed and approved by a certificated teacher”
- Description of weekly contact for online and remote courses; not needed for site-based courses
- WSLPs no longer need to *specify* if the course meets state and district graduation requirements
 - All high school ALE courses must be offered for credit

School-based support staff & WSLPs

- The WSLP may be developed and approved by school-based support staff *only* if the student's WSLP includes only online courses
- “School-based support staff” support students in online courses. May be non-certificated.

(4)(b) Weekly Contact

- Each ALE student must have one of the following at least once per school week:
 - Direct personal contact
 - In-person instructional contact
 - Synchronous digital instructional contact
- No minimum time requirements

Documenting weekly contact

- For students participating in **regularly-scheduled classes**, including in-person instructional contact and synchronous digital instructional contact, evidence may include classroom attendance records.
- For students who are **not participating in regularly-scheduled classes**, evidence of contact must include the date of the contact, the method of communication by which the contact was accomplished, and documentation to support the subject of the communication.

(4)(c) Monthly Evaluation

- After an initial month of satisfactory progress, in *subsequent* months where progress continues to be satisfactory the evaluation may be communicated to the student without direct personal contact
- Example:
 - October = Satisfactory
 - November = Satisfactory
 - One-way communication of progress okay
 - Weekly contact requirements must still be met
 - Direct personal contact w/ evaluation still best practice

(4)(c) Monthly Evaluation

- Evaluation must be completed within 5 school days of the end of the month
- Districts must not claim funding for the subsequent month for a student who has not yet been evaluated
- Example:
 - October 2013 evaluation can be completed up to Nov 7
 - District cannot claim the student in November unless the evaluation is done within five days of the end of October

(4)(c) Monthly Evaluation

- For online students, school-based support staff may:
 - Use the student’s progress grades in the online course or courses to determine whether a student’s progress is satisfactory
 - Following school policy and procedures, may take into account non-academic factors or local school expectations to finalize the determination of satisfactory progress
 - Communicate the evaluation to online students
 - Use progress grades posted in the learning management system as the documentation

Intervention Plans

- For online students, school-based support staff may develop the intervention plan in conjunction with the student and online teacher.
 - The plan must be approved by the student's online certificated teacher

(7) Enrollment Reporting

- **Old:** If the intervention plan hasn't been developed within 5 days, you have to back the student out of the *current* month
 - Example: Unsatisfactory evaluation on Oct. 21, no implementation plan in place until after 5 days = back student FTE out of *October* count
- **New:** If the intervention plan hasn't been developed within 5 days, you can't claim funding for the subsequent month
 - Example: Unsatisfactory evaluation on Oct. 21, no implementation plan in place until after 5 days = don't claim student FTE in *November* count

(7) Enrollment Reporting

- Programs that **end in May** may use the last school day in May as the June count day if:
 - The ALE program calendar indicates the last day of school is in May.
 - The students' WSLPs ends on the last day of school.
- Students who **graduated in May** can be counted in June if:
 - The ALE program calendar has a May graduation date.
 - The student's WSLP ends on the last day of school for seniors.

(7) Enrollment Reporting

- Report ALE students on P223
- Report ALE students on monthly SAFS ALE by program and *home district*
 - Home district defined as where the student lives regardless of choice.
- Do not need to track 80%/90% counts anymore!
- Both P223 and SAFS ALE due around the 10th of each month

Other changes...

- Removed the requirement in 6(n) that ALE online programs be accredited
 - Accreditation is still a requirement for online school programs (WAC 392-502)
- Removed the program evaluation requirement

A note about ALE sample forms...

- Share your best:
 - WSLPs
 - Contact tracking logs
 - Monthly evaluations
 - Intervention plans
- Send to:
 - Susan Canaga, susan.canaga@k12.wa.us
 - Karl Nelson, karl.nelson@k12.wa.us

ALE & HQT

ALE & HQT

- Teachers in ALE programs must meet HQT requirements when teaching core academic subject area courses.
- “Teacher of record” designation is not a valid pathway for meeting HQT requirements.

Instructional Support Service Providers

- Individuals who do not provide direct instruction but, instead, provide instructional support services.
- May be employed directly by the school district, or they may have a contractual relationship with the district.
- Individuals who provide instructional support services, such as paraprofessionals, instructional aides, or teacher's aides, *may be used in ALE settings.*

Instructional Support Service Providers

- Must work under the direct supervision of a certificated teacher.
 - “Working under the direct supervision of a certificated teacher” means that communication between the instructional support service provider and the certificated teacher is intentional and frequent while the instructional support activities are carried out.

ALE Program Guidelines

When using these individuals to provide instructional support services, ALE programs should:

- Ensure that the student's learning is supervised, monitored, assessed, evaluated, and documented by a certificated teacher. For courses in the core academic subject areas, this teacher must be highly qualified.
- Ensure that weekly contact with the student is conducted by a certificated teacher.
- Ensure that the educational progress of the student is evaluated at least once each calendar month of enrollment by a certificated teacher.*

* Note the exemptions for school-based support staff for students whose WSLP includes only online courses.

ALE & HQT

digitallearning.k12.wa.us/ale/support/hqt.php

Q&A