digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

DLC Snapshot 2024:
K-12 Online and Blended Learning Trends in Policy & Practice

SNAPSHOT
2024

The post-pandemic
digital learning
landscape emerges

JANUARY 2024

Introductions

Dr. Allison Powell

- Chief Academic Officer, Evergreen Education Group and Program Chair, Digital Learning Annual Conference (DLAC)
- Former BloomBoard, Senior Learning Strategist
- Former iNACOL/Aurora Institute, VP of New Learning Models
- Co-founder, Clark County School District Virtual High School and Odyssey Charter Schools Hybrid School

→

Explore and Engage

Explore (30 min)

- Student and course enrollments - totals and trends
- State policy updates and trends
- Digital learning trends

Engage (10min)

- Feedback, ideas, discussion

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Snapshot and State Profiles

- **Snapshot**
  - School Visits
  - Talks
  - Conferences
  - Survey of the Field
  - DLC Executive Committee (monthly calls and executive retreat)
- **State Profiles**
  - Multiple contacts and resources
  - DLC State Affiliates, DoEs, consortia, state virtual schools, regional ed agencies, others
  - Additional online research on policy and districts

TODAY'S GOAL: Review what we have learned and discuss data and trends
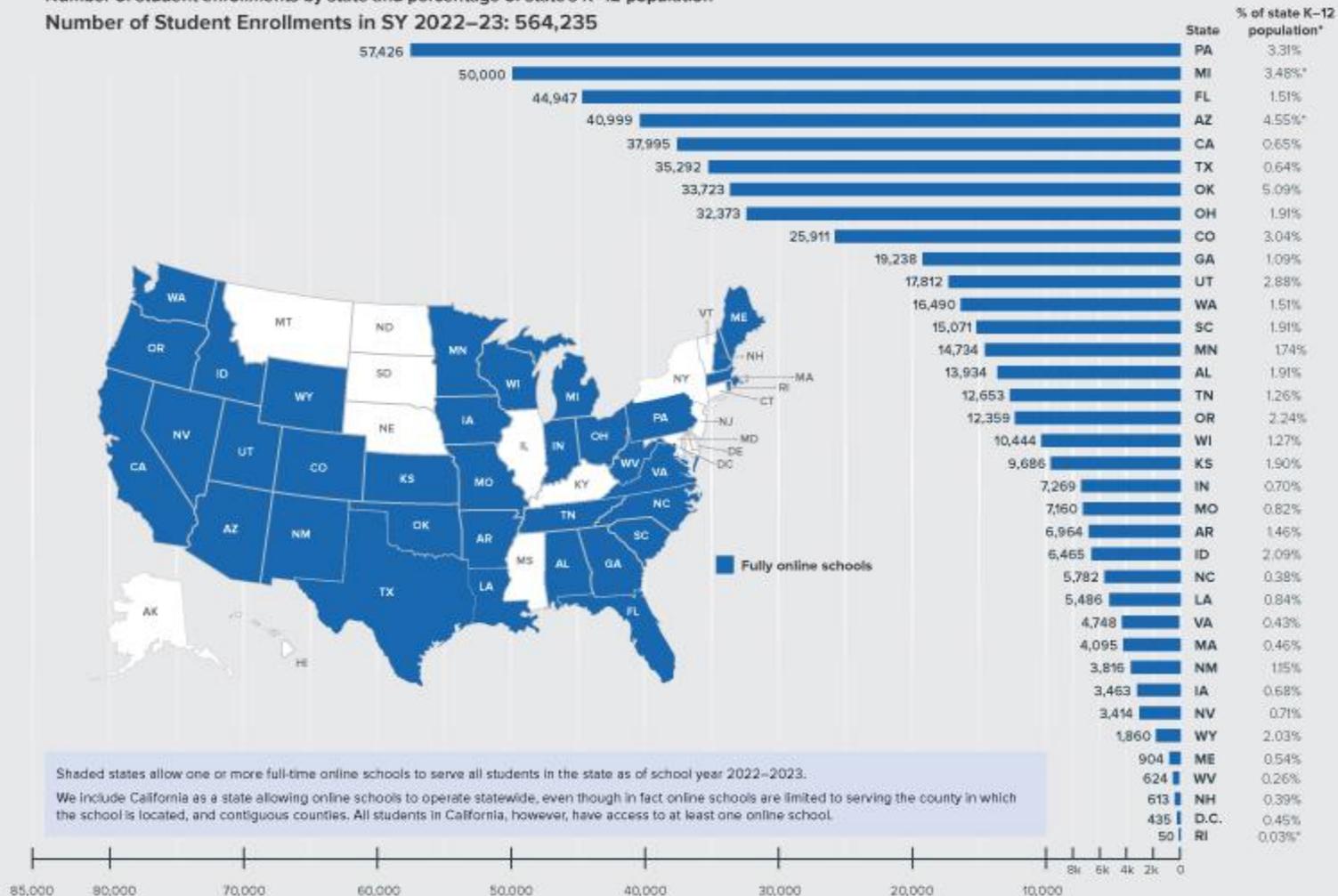
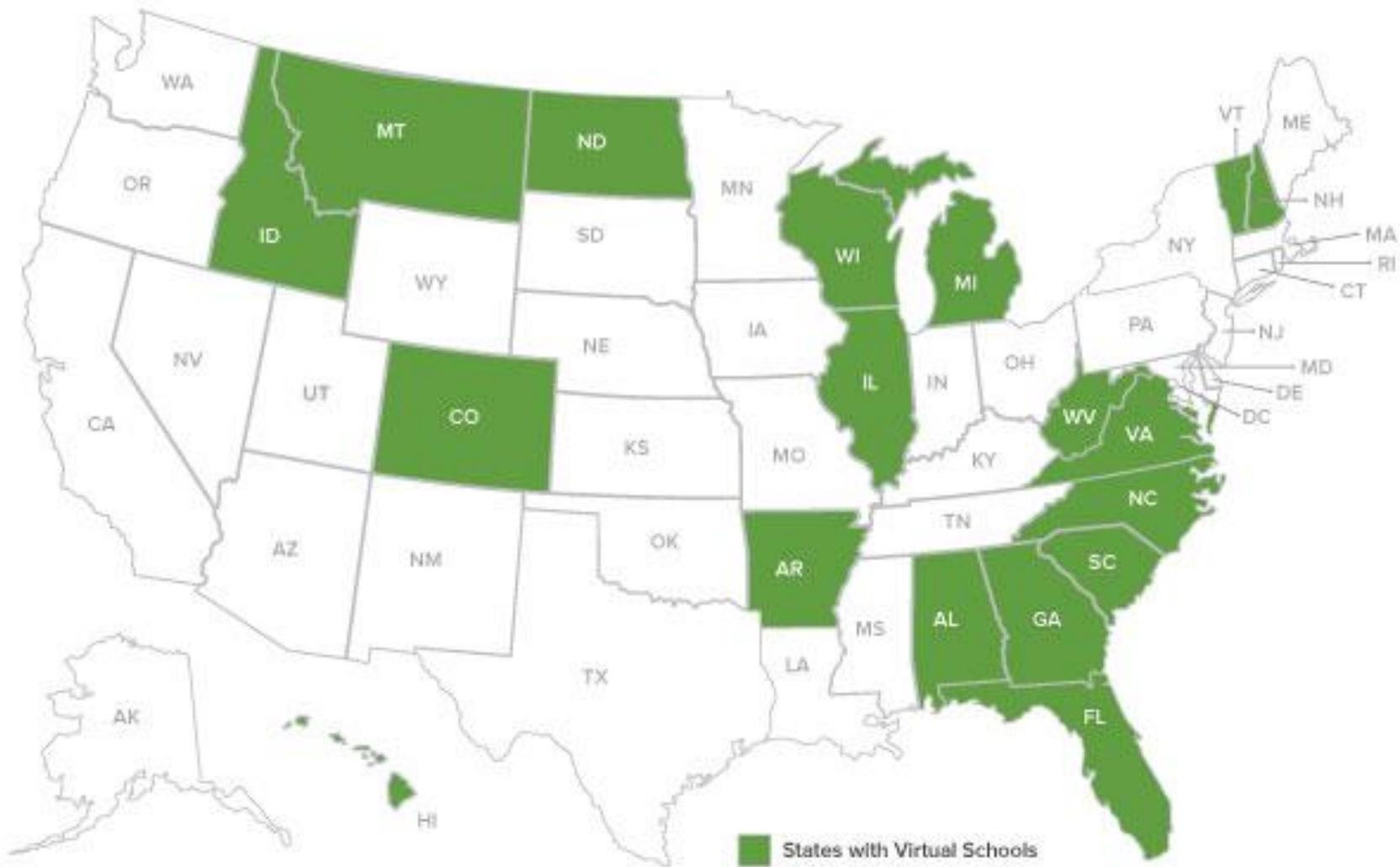digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Types of Programs

- Districts
- Hybrid Schools
- Microschools
- Full-time virtual schools
- SVS (state virtual schools), regional education agencies

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Number of student enrollments by state and percentage of state's K–12 population
Number of Student Enrollments in SY 2022–23: 564,235

State	Number of Student Enrollments	% of state K–12 population*
PA	57,426	3.31%
MI	50,000	3.48%*
FL	44,947	1.51%
AZ	40,999	4.55%*
CA	37,995	0.65%
TX	35,292	0.64%
OK	33,723	5.09%
OH	32,373	1.91%
CO	25,911	3.04%
GA	19,238	1.09%
UT	17,812	2.88%
WA	16,490	1.51%
SC	15,071	1.91%
MN	14,734	1.74%
AL	13,934	1.91%
TN	12,653	1.26%
OR	12,359	2.24%
WI	10,444	1.27%
KS	9,686	1.90%
IN	7,269	0.70%
MO	7,160	0.82%
AR	6,964	1.46%
ID	6,465	2.09%
NC	5,782	0.38%
LA	5,486	0.84%
VA	4,748	0.43%
MA	4,095	0.46%
NM	3,816	1.15%
IA	3,463	0.68%
NV	3,414	0.71%
WY	1,860	2.03%
ME	904	0.54%
WV	624	0.26%
NH	613	0.39%
D.C.	435	0.45%
RI	50	0.03%*

Fully online schools

Shaded states allow one or more full-time online schools to serve all students in the state as of school year 2022–2023.

We include California as a state allowing online schools to operate statewide, even though in fact online schools are limited to serving the county in which the school is located, and contiguous counties. All students in California, however, have access to at least one online school.

*Numbers are an estimate, exact enrollment numbers will be available in spring 2024

States with Virtual Schools

Program Name	Year started	Grades served	SY 2022-23 semester course enrollments w/ SVS instructors	Number of partner schools	Franchise Model** offered (Y/N); and # schools participating	Professional Learning Service offered (Y/N); and # enrollments
ACCESS Virtual Learning (AL)	2006	6-12	72,902	394	Yes; number unavailable	No
Virtual Arkansas	2013	7-12	39,977	319	Yes; 137	No
Colorado Digital Learning Solutions	2015	K-12	9,461	178 districts	Yes; 12 schools	No
Florida Virtual School	1997	K-12	524,820	number unavailable	Yes; 133,695 course completions	Yes
Georgia Virtual School	2005	6-12	65,191	number unavailable	Yes; number unavailable	Yes; 20,000*
Hawaii	2007	7-12	1,815* supplemental course enrollments	number unavailable	Yes; number unavailable	Yes
Idaho Digital Learning	2002	K-12	44,342	409	No	Yes; number unavailable
Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy	2022	5-12	3,454	number unavailable	No	No
Michigan Virtual	1999	6-12	32,889	491	Yes; 23 schools	Yes; 255,000
Montana Digital Academy	2010	5-12	7,184	194	Yes; 1 school	No
Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (NH)	2008	K-12	27,646	number unavailable	number unavailable	Yes
North Carolina Virtual Public High Schools (NCVPS)	2007	6-12	105,640	1,069	Yes; number unavailable	Yes; 12,281
North Dakota Center for Distance Education	1935	K-12	7,421	400	No	No
VirtualSC	2006	6-12	103,770	320	Yes; 127 schools	Yes; 9,646
Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)	2009	6-12	2,377	113	Yes; 5 schools	Yes
Virtual Virginia	1984	K-12	61,520	760	Yes; number unavailable	Yes; 17,000
West Virginia Virtual School	2000	3-12	8,114*	number unavailable	number unavailable	number unavailable
Wisconsin Virtual School	2000	6-12	12,857	300	Yes; 8 schools	Yes; 141

State virtual school summary table. Enrollment numbers are for 2022-23.

*SY 2021-2022 data. SY 2022-23 data will be updated when available.

**Franchise Model: the chart above details semester course enrollments taught by SVS instructors. The majority of SVS offer numerous online learning opportunities, resulting in increased student enrollments and an enhanced educational impact.

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Full-time and supplemental enrollments
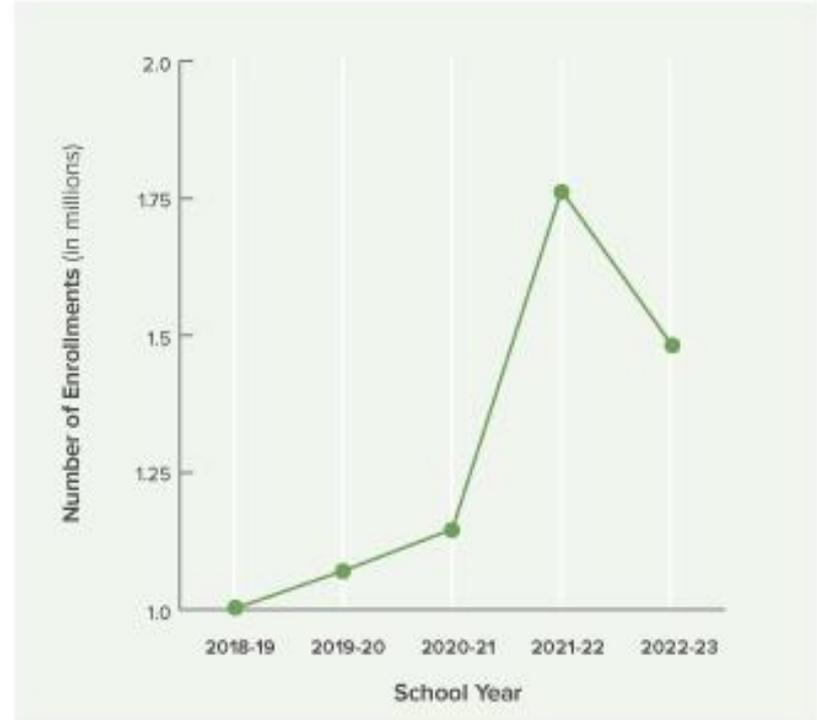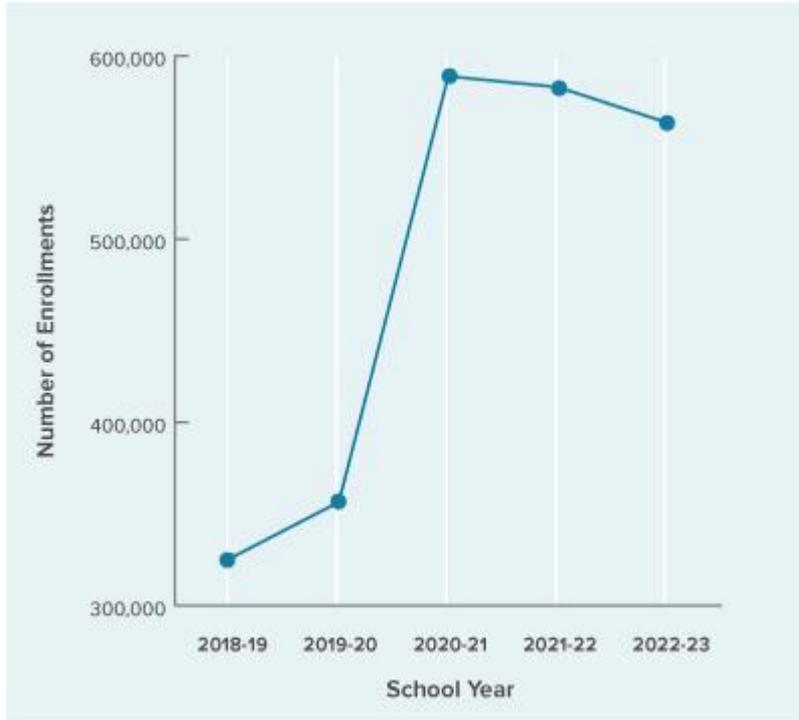
Enrollment Trends

- Drop in elementary but rise in a couple of places
- 5 year trends - gradual growth pre-Pandemic, huge spike during pandemic, small drop and leveling out now
- Supplemental enrollments
- District enrollment growth

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

States passing legislation impacting digital learning policy
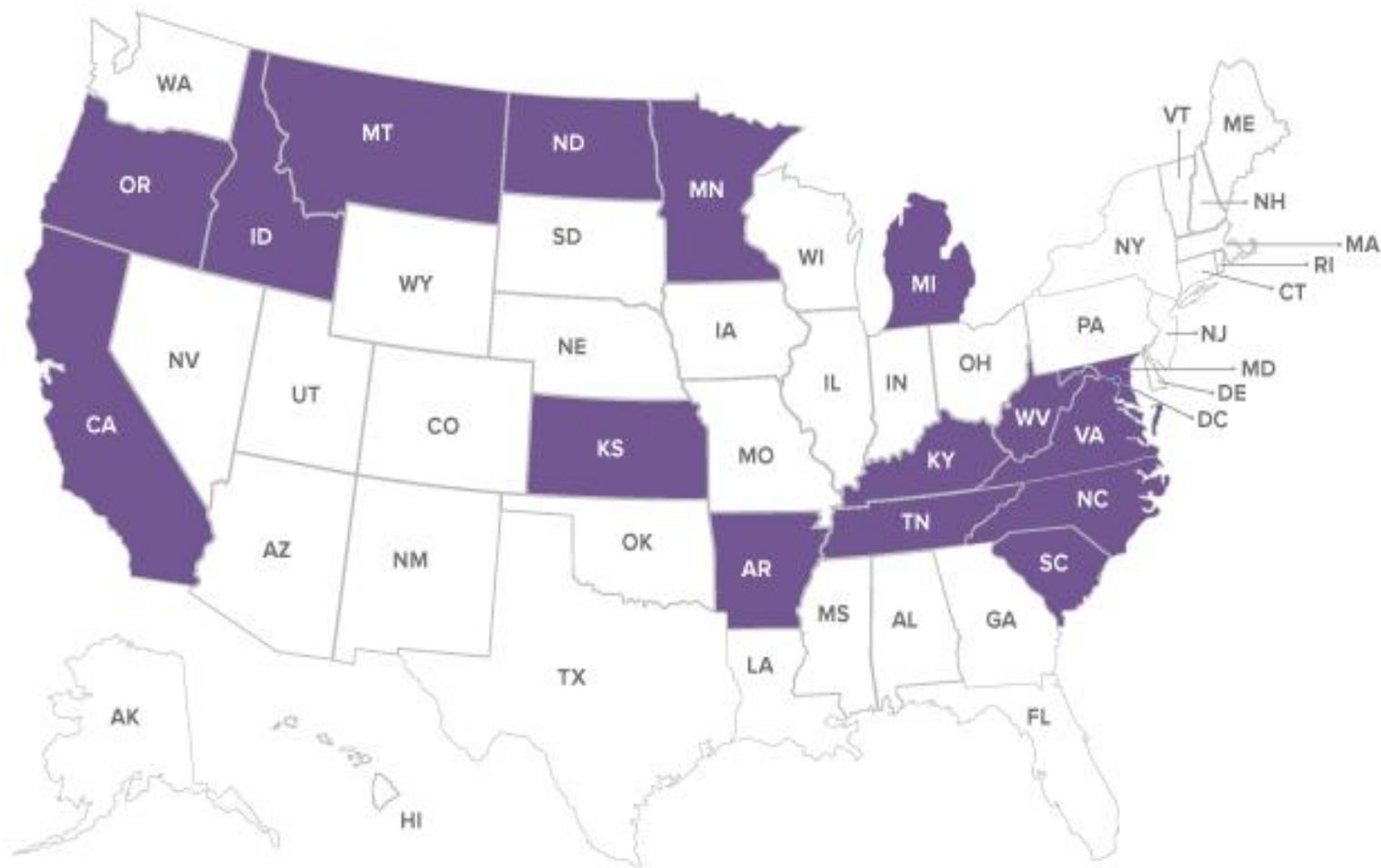
Policy Updates

- **Themes**
  - ESAs
  - Funding Models
  - Removing the graduation requirement
  - Accountability/FT School Testing

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

State Policy Update Preview

Kansas
State Profile
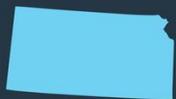
[House Bill 2080](#) (2023) amends K.S.A. 72-3711 to allow full-time virtual students to take state assessments virtually.

Michigan
State Profile

State School Aid bill (July 2023) capped cyber school funding at 2023 levels while providing all other public schools an increase in per pupil funding.

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

State Policy Update Preview

Montana State Profile

The 2023 Montana Legislature passed House Bill 749 which, along with reconfiguring MTDA's governing board, expands the mission of the program to offer additional distance and digital learning to students through their Montana public school. These new services will include blended learning content and platforms, industry certification preparation, additional online course offerings, and proficiency-based testing services.

[HB 562](HB 562) (2023) allows for the creation of Community Choice Schools which can be authorized by a newly created Commission located within the Board of Public Education, or by local school districts. It allows for virtual community choice schools to enroll students full-time and establishes a set of requirements for virtual community schools (section 9).

Rule10.55.907 governs schools using online and distance learning classes. It requires schools to report courses, enrollments and providers and requires providers to register and report districts they serve, including courses provided and student enrollment.

In 2023, the Montana Legislature passed two school bills that were signed into law by the Governor which allow for charter or charter-like schools. One bill allows for charter schools, and places them almost exclusively under the oversight of local school boards and the Board of Public Education. The other bill refs to "community choice schools", and utilizes either local school boards or a newly formed Community Choice School Commission, which is attached to the Board of Public Education, to authorize and oversee ~~charter~~ Community Choice Schools. Previously, "charters" were referred to in administrative rule, but limited in scope.

digital learning COLLABORATIVE

State Policy Update Preview

North Dakota State Profile
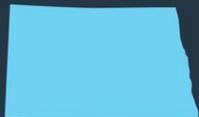
The North Dakota Center for Distance Education has an entire chapter of state law, outlining its scope of authority to offer distance education and its governing structure, NDCC Ch. 15.19.

State code NDCC Ch. 15.1-31 (2023) on open enrollment allows a student to enroll full-time in another public school district, including a public virtual academy.
North Dakota has two chapters of administrative code that govern virtual learning with the aim of strengthening accountability and quality for virtual instruction. Virtual learning arrangements must keep track of attendance and classroom progress just as is done during normal classroom instruction.

- ND Administrative Code Chapter 67-30-02 establishes North Dakota Century Code for any physical school district to create and operate a virtual academy/school.
- ND Administrative Code Chapter 67-30-01 outlines policy and North Dakota Century Code for schools to implement digital education during an emergency such as inclement weather and not lose their per pupil funding.

State law on virtual instruction options for military-connected students, those with a medical condition, and those moving out of state can be found in NDCC 15.1-07-37.

digital learning COLLABORATIVE

Trends

- AI in K-12
- CTE/Dual enrollment
- Balance between synch/asynch teaching & learning
- Online Elementary is hard
- Teacher shortages
- Update on research

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Discussion and Feedback

- What changes/trends have you seen in your supplemental and/or full-time enrollments? What's coming?
- How do we better collect district enrollments?
- What recent legislation is impacting online learning in your state?
- What are your top 2-3 pain points where legislation would improve online learning in your state?
- What are you doing in your schools/programs? (new trends)
- What is the most valuable information you get from the Snapshot? What would you like to see?

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE

Contact us or send us comments...

Allison@evergreenedgroup.com

digital learning
COLLABORATIVE