



Virtual Education Consortium

Virtual Education consortium

The establishment of a Virtual Education Consortium is mandated by the Alaska Reads Act in an effort to create resources, tools, communication, and partnership around virtual education and professional development resources for students and teachers throughout the state. Section 14.30.800 of HB 114 states:

“The Department shall, in cooperation with school districts, establish a virtual education consortium for the purpose of making virtual education and professional development resources available to students and teachers in the state.”

Virtual Education Consortium efforts include:

- DEED must establish standards for consortium resources.
- The consortium must create and maintain a database of virtual education courses for students, training in virtual instruction for teachers, and professional development courses for teachers of students throughout the state if the coursework curriculum meets the state standards established by the department.
- Create access for all districts to the virtual education database content.

DEED will prioritize creation of content for the virtual education platform that focuses on needs related to the Alaska Reads Act. This content might include, for example, training in the Science of Reading, training in how to teach reading, and training on how to adjust curriculum delivery to align to the Science of Reading.

Upon approval of Virtual Education Consortium regulations by the State Board of Education, DEED will convene a Virtual Education Consortium committee made up of district representatives, classroom teachers, statewide education agencies, and State Board of Education members. The committee will further define the Virtual Education Consortium priorities.