
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

DIGEST

Proposed law creates the La. Virtual School in the Dept. of Education as a technology-based program that expands learning opportunities to high school students through courses of study that may not otherwise be available to students and offers access to a full menu of standards-based, online courses of study in subjects which are delivered by certified teachers using the Internet, electronic mail, and other online resources.

Provides for the enrollment of high school students in virtual school courses through their high schools. Requires the governing authority of each public secondary school, not later than Jan. 1, 2012, to do the following:

- (1) Enter into a legal agreement with the department.
- (2) Identify a school site facilitator to oversee the registration process for students and assist with other related administrative matters.
- (3) Develop and adopt policies that provide students with educational opportunities through the virtual school, including but not limited to a process for access to and enrollment in any virtual school course of study and a procedure for awarding credit to a student who successfully completes a virtual school course of study. Prohibits policies from limiting student access to any course of study offered by the virtual school, including but not limited to any course that is not offered at the high school in which the student is enrolled.

Provides that credit for all courses of study completed through the virtual school be granted through the high school. Requires a mid-term progress report and final letter grade to be issued by the instructor and forwarded to the high school through the department.

Requires, beginning on January 1, 2012 and continuing thereafter, the governing authority of each public secondary school to inform each student and parent or legal custodian, in writing, upon enrollment in high school of the virtual school option and any available virtual school course offerings.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:236.4)