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| **Digital Learning Advisory Council**[[1]](#footnote-2)**:** | December 4, 2024 |
| **Time:** | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM |
| **General Public Registration Zoom Link:** | <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NBYkd7XdQeiBR5sTrVzInA>  --- |
| **Location:** | Remote Participation - Online |
| **Attendee Information:** | Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC) |

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* **Welcome**
* **Introductions of Remote Participants** 
  + **DLAC members**:
  + Stacy Young – VHS Learning
  + Kristin Peterson – Education Development Center
  + Robert Shaw – Hull High School
  + Rachel Miller – Springfield Public Schools
  + Sarah Haavind – The Concord Consortium
  + Ayele Shakur – Campus Without Walls
  + Cindy Yetman – American Federation for Teachers Amesbury and MA
  + Bill Silver – Chelmsford Public Schools
  + Beth Tripathi – Massachusetts Teachers Association
  + Daniel Downs – North Reading Public Schools and Bunker Hill Community College
  + Devin Sheehan – National School Board Association
  + (joined at 1pm) Scott Morrison – Triton Public Schools
  + **DESE staff**
  + Jaqulyn Gantzer
  + AJ Cote
  + Ruth Hersh
  + Alison Bagg
* **Special Welcome to New Members** 
  + Welcome and reminders of obligations for new members. Email to follow to review and acknowledge receipt and review of OML materials.
    - [Open Meeting Law Guide](https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-guide-and-educational-materials-0/download), p. 6-7. See also the Attorney General’s [Frequently Asked Questions about the OML: Deliberation and Electronic Communication](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law#frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law:-deliberation-and-electronic-communication-)
* **Review and Approve Minutes from September 25, 2024, DLAC Meeting** (roll call)
  + Member moved to approve. Member seconded.
  + Stacy Young – yes
  + Sarah Haavind – yes
  + Cindy Yetman – yes
  + Bill Silver – yes
  + Beth Tripathi – yes
  + Daniel Downs – yes
* **Advisory Council Orientation and Reminders** 
  + DLAC meetings will now use Zoom Webinar Format
  + The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) [Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) and [DESE’s resources](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/catalog.xlsx) drives all of our work.
* **DLAC 2023-24 Annual Report (emailed ahead of time)**
  + DESE staff drafts DLAC annual report each year, needs to be finalized by June, to document the work and recommendations of the DLAC for the Commissioner and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Draft is shared with DLAC members to collect feedback before it is finalized.
* **DESE’s Updates on CMVS/SDVS (Alison Bagg & Ruth Hersh)** 
  + **Discussion about Academic Results of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools and the Single District Virtual Schools (emailed ahead of time)**
  + **CMVS Results**
  + Member question about how dropout rates are calculated.
* Member questions about the impact of Question 2 (ending MCAS requirement to earn competency requirement) on the dropout rate? Do we know how many of the students who dropped out did so because of MCAS requirement? Will common core replace the MCAS requirement for graduation?
* Member question about the impact of internet outages on absenteeism rates. Are IST outages cross-referenced to check for absences?
  + Member question about how the accountability percentile is determined, to what group of schools are the CMVS compared? If there is an improvement in their percentile, could it be that the other schools are doing less well?
  + Member question about Department actions if a school is identified as requiring assistance.
* **SDVS Results**
* Member question about what accountability structures exist at the district level if there is insufficient MCAS data (small number of students) to publicly report assessment results? What other data could these SDVS report to show student performance?
* Member question about how many students each SDVS enrolls.
* Member question about variation in virtual learning efficacy for different grades. Do we see stronger results in elementary, middle, or high school for SDVS and CMVS?
* Member suggestion to look at outcome data and program for VLAC (Virtual Learning Academy Charter) in New Hampshire <https://vlacs.org/>
* **Tuition Increase Request from CMVS and Commissioner Recommendation (Memo emailed ahead of time)**
* Member question about how special education funding is calculated for CMVS.
* Member question: Do CMVS get Medicaid reimbursement?
* Member question: What is the actual increase of district payments if an increase in CMVS tuition is approved?
* Member statement: It would be helpful for districts to think about how to best collaborate with the CMVS to better serve students and perhaps improve student outcomes.
* Member statement: While there should be a place for virtual learning, the outcome data we looked at today does not reflect a model that is working well. Why will larger tuition rates fix it? Suggestion to explore what is working, what is not working, and how virtual schools can better work with districts.
* **Education Technology Team Update (A.J. Cote & Jacqulyn Gantzer)**
  + Updates from AI Taskforce
    - Taskforce concluded with recommendations for state action to support with navigating the evolving AI landscape.
    - We have been meeting internally with Department leadership to discuss the findings and to plan our response and next steps. We do anticipate being able to share more details once everything has been finalized, including a potential board presentation early in the new year.
  + Ongoing work with the 8 LEAs in our **PLC** (so far, 4 individual coaching meetings, one all cohort meeting, and we are now conducting site visits with the districts). Dartmouth, Dover-Sherborn, Everett, Mendon-Upton, Nashoba, Needham, Wellesley, Winchester
  + 2nd Tuesday of the month – we have our **EdTech Express** – a maximum of a 15-minute update from OET ranging from DESE updates, to new resource releases, etc. Our next Edtech express is on 12/10.
  + Our **EdTech Leader Network** has had 2 meeting so far this year, our first in October was to kick off the launch of our revised Strategic Planning Guide – with a focus on edtech leadership and setting an instructional vision. Then in November, we focused on Data Management and were lucky to have Melissa Tebbenkamp as a guest speaker who shared her knowledge and resources related to Data Governance. Our next EdTech Leader Network is on 1/28.
* **FY25 items for further DLAC discussion** – Item tabled due to lack of time.
* **2024-25 Meeting Schedule** 
  + Wednesday, September 25th
  + Wednesday, December 4th
  + Wednesday, February 5th
  + Wednesday, May 7th
* **Adjourn** (roll call)
* **Motion to ajourn. Second.** 
  + Stacy Young – yes
  + Sarah Haavind – yes
  + Cindy Yetman – yes
  + Beth Tripathi – yes
  + Daniel Downs – yes
  + Scott Morrison – yes
  + Robert Shaw – yes
  + Rachel Miller – yes
  + Sarah Haavind – yes
  + Ayele Shakur – yes

1. *The 2013 virtual schools legislation (*[*Chapter 379 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Establishing Commonwealth Virtual Schools*](http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter379)*) created a Digital Learning Advisory Council to advise the Board and the Commissioner on:*

   * *The development of policies guiding virtual schools, supplemental online courses, education technology, and other matters related to virtual education.*
   * *The identification of best practices to encourage online education to complement classroom instruction in district schools.*
   * *The assessment of the appropriateness of the fee that the Department may retain for the administration of the virtual school program.*

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)