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| **Digital Learning Advisory Council**[[1]](#footnote-2)**:** | February 5, 2025 |
| **Time:** | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM |
| **General Public Registration Zoom Link:** | <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h75Ly6PjRb2n03bb3xnsHg>  --- |
| **Location:** | Remote Participation - Online |
| **Attendee Information:** | Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC) |

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* **Welcome**
* **Introductions of Remote Participants – Welcome New Member**

**DLAC members**:

* + Stacy Young – VHS Learning
  + Kirsten 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
  + Scott Morrison – Triton Public Schools
  + Katherine Jordan – Parent Representative from TECCA
  + Jared Perrine - Narragansett Regional School District

**DESE staff**

* + Jaqulyn Gantzer
  + Ruth Hersh
  + Alison Bagg

**Members of the Public**

* + Katharina Elbert
* **Review and Approve Minutes from December 4, 2024, DLAC Meeting** (roll call)
  + Stacy Young – yes
  + Kirsten Peterson – yes
  + Robert Shaw – yes
  + Rachel Miller – yes
  + Sarah Haavind – yes
  + Ayele Shakur – yes
  + Cindy Yetman – yes
  + Bill Silver – yes
  + Beth Tripathi – yes
  + Daniel Downs – yes
  + Devin Sheehan – yes
  + Scott Morrison – yes
  + Jared Perrine - yes
* **Advisory Council Orientation and Reminders** 
  + 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)
* **DESE’s Updates on CMVS/SDVS (Alison Bagg & Ruth Hersh)** 
  + Tuition Increase Request from CMVS – Update. BESE approved the request at the [December 2024 meeting](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2025/2024-12/item5.docx). Will be implemented in FY26.
  + Meeting with Learning Accelerator and ISTE – Improving Student Outcomes in Virtual Schools. DESE is engaged on a national level and locally with this work.
  + CMVS accountability plans – student centered metrics. DESE sent the annual reports for TECCA and GCVS. Can see the metrics from their accountability plans.
* **Education Technology Team Update (A.J. Cote & Jacqulyn Gantzer)**
  + Our AI taskforce meeting is tomorrow. We are excited to talk about the next steps since the taskforce recommendations are related to the continued emergency of AI. DESE will put together resources related to AI literacy guidelines, student data privacy guidelines as well as plans to support implementation.
* **FY25 DLAC Charge**

The Digital Learning Advisory Council advises the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education on matters pertinent to the development of digital learning in the Commonwealth. To accomplish that goal, the Council will:

* **Look at how digital learning aligns with the Department’s educational vision and three strategic objectives.**
* Advise regarding virtual schools, education technology, and other matters related to virtual education, including, but not limited to, recommendations for best practices to encourage online education to complement classroom instruction in district schools; and,
* Provide additional programmatic recommendations, as it deems necessary, to fulfill the goals established by the Board and align with the Department’s [Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) and [Strategic Objectives.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/vision-supports.pdf)

**Themes of the Discussion**:

**Strategic Objective #1: Whole Child:**

* Promote students' physical and mental health and wellness in welcoming, affirming, and safe spaces
* Support implementing a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) that aids all students in their academic, social, emotional, and behavioral development
* Help develop authentic partnerships with students and families, elevating their voices in decision-making and connecting them to their communities

**How can Ed Tech Integration support the whole child?**

* Very familiar tools can be used, such as: Nearpod, Common Sense Media
* We need a statewide approach to digital citizenship
* Ed tech should not be siloed – part of blended and virtual learning
* How can we leverage DLCS educators in blended and virtual learning environments?
* What are the best resources to promote to achieve student safety?
* Citizenship and cyber security – state has promoted a grow your own, I think that we should showcase good examples. This should be tied into Behavioral/Social and Emotional Learning (BSEL) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) initiatives. We need tech support for infrastructure and curriculum best practices sharing between districts.

**How can Virtual Learning support the whole child?**

* Virtual environments can reduce student anxiety about participation and allow for more equitable participation – many ways to participate in a way that is equal to other responses that are there on idea boards, shared documents.
* Built in wait-time helps improve student participation.
* There are themes about collaboration and flexibility.
* Consistency and coherence is needed. Caution about just suggesting a new application/tool (concerns about student data privacy and navigation amongst a variety of platforms). Should provide resources for multiple methods of learning – physical, audio, online. Find ways for schools to integrate the work districts have already done instead of sending students and families to many different tools.
* What is working and what is not working for districts? Not all districts have the same capacity to support a variety of resources and environments for learning. Once we find best practices, then pick some that the state can get behind. Can we get to a common ground with creating different learning spaces?
* Not one approach to any of these ideas. We spend heavily on technology, we started 1-1 blended learning, we offered teachers graduate courses. We have moved on to Project Based Learning (PBL) now, but we have to continue to develop teachers to develop capacity to implement district goals. We have to figure out how to implement and integrate effectively.

**How can Blended Learning support the whole child?**

* We were a Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech Consortium (MAPLE) district. It has a consistent vision for what blended learning looked like. We need a consistent vision for what good, blended learning looks like.
* Blended learning is one way where you can get a student to invest in themselves because they have some choice, can use tools to make their own learning journey change. They don’t just need to go step by step through one curriculum/way to learn.
* Pace, place, and path. Saw themes of pace and place in blended learning in all of our responses.
* Create environments to support student health and wellness, blended environment can give students voice and choice.
* Campus without walls model – use an ecosystem of schools to provide options to students. One teacher could provide a wellness class providing a peer counseling group, we can provide this across schools through a blended environment. Cluster of students across different schools. DESE could help to set this up. What menu of services could be offered by one school to a group of schools.
* Could state leverage their buying power or promotion through initiatives to control some tech vendor costs?

**Strategic Objective #2: Deeper Learning:**

* Support the selection and skillful implementation of high-quality and engaging instructional materials that support culturally and linguistically sustaining practices and foster deeper learning
* Support the MTSS process to implement academic supports and interventions that provide all students, particularly students with disabilities and English learners, equitable access to deeper learning
* Assist reimagining the high school experience so that all students are engaged and prepared for post-secondary success

**How can Ed Tech Integration support Deeper Learning?**

* DL computer and science standards need revision to encourage ed prep programs focusing on ensuring DLCS supports integrating ed tech programs into deeper learning. Students need to be career ready to use different technology platforms. How can our pre-service educators be prepared for those changes.
* Big gap in teacher pre-services skills and ed tech – had to do with IT departments of universities and K-12. DESE can do more to encourage ed prep programs to have better skills and applicable skills. We want more resources for ed tech teachers. Gap between availability for instructional technology license and demand. DLAC could recommend this and less restriction on ed prep program approval. Ed prep programs may teach canvas, but then teacher employed in a google district.
* Some of us could collaborate on a grant proposal to impact pre-service teaching programs.
* Licensure, PD, data, curriculum, resources are themes I see, as well as learning environment. Take into account not just what people are used to, but what are the best resources.

**How can Virtual Learning support Deeper Learning?**

* Several of us noted ability to have real world application, virtual environment eliminates geographic boundaries allows participation from career professionals. Ongoing relationships where career folks can mentor students.
* Real world experiences – students can make connections to people or learning from across the world.
* Reimaging the HS experience – good reference to take a look at what is required to graduate HS. A few things we require these days no longer serve all students – may need to reconsider. We have a pathway for technology that culminates in CIM (computer manufacturing) we struggle to fund appropriately. Some of these suggestions are vocational courses. We may need to look at Chapter 74.

**How can Blended Learning support Deeper Learning?**

* None mentioned for this area.
* **2024-25 Meeting Schedule** 
  + Wednesday, September 25th
  + Wednesday, December 4th
  + Wednesday, February 5th
  + Wednesday, May 7th
* **Adjourn** (roll call)
  + **Motion to adjourn. Member seconds.**
  + Stacy Young – yes
  + Kirsten Peterson – yes
  + Robert Shaw – yes
  + Rachel Miller – yes
  + Sarah Haavind – yes
  + Ayele Shakur – yes
  + Cindy Yetman – yes
  + Bill Silver – yes
  + Beth Tripathi – yes
  + Daniel Downs – yes
  + Devin Sheehan – yes
  + Scott Morrison – yes
  + Jared Perrine - 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)