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| **Digital Learning Advisory Council**[[1]](#footnote-2)**:** | May 7, 2025 |
| **Time:** | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM |
| **General Public Registration Zoom Link:** | <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WLw5xmRUQY2geceFMhcfBg> |
| **Location:** | Remote Participation - Online |
| **Attendee Information:** | Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC) |

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* **Welcome**
* **Introductions of Remote Participants – Welcome New Member**
* **Review and Approve Minutes from February 5, 2025, DLAC Meeting** (roll call)
* **Advisory Council Orientation and Reminders**

**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)
* **DLAC Discussion – Annual Report Council Recommendations** 
  + Each year, the DLAC provides recommendations to the Commissioner and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. These recommendations are captured in the DLAC’s Annual Report due by June. At our last meeting we explored and unpacked some of the issues related to the FY25 DLAC Charge, and today we will refine these ideas and potential recommendations for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

1. **Please review the table below to help refine recommendations for DESE, the Commissioner, and the Board. The group can also identify if certain suggestions are more appropriate for LEAs or other stakeholders to implement.**

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| **Strategic Objective #1 Whole Student** | | | |
| **Ed Tech Integration Suggestions:** | **Local District Sphere of Influence/Actions** | **DESE Sphere of Influence/Recommendations Actions (guidance, regulations, “bully pulpit”/information sharing, grantmaking)** | **Community/third parties Sphere of influence/Actions** |
| * Leverage familiar software tools |  |  |  |
| * Develop a cohesive, statewide approach to digital citizenship education |  | CIS team, DLCS standards |  |
| * Integrate Ed Tech with blended and virtual learning, not as a separate entity |  |  |  |
| * DLCS educators |  | CIS team, DLCS standards |  |
| * Identify and promote the best resources for ensuring student online safety and cybersecurity. |  | Office of Municipal and School Technology out of EOTSS |  |
| * Connect digital citizenship and cybersecurity initiatives with existing BSEL and MTSS frameworks |  |  |  |
| * Provide tech support for infrastructure and curriculum best practices sharing between districts. |  | Ed Tech Team Strategic Planning Guide |  |
| **Virtual Learning Suggestions:** |  |  |  |
| * Acknowledge that virtual environments may lower participation anxiety for some students and may promote more equitable engagement through tools like idea boards and shared documents. |  | OCSSR continues to acknowledge and encourage virtual environment options and choices to meet a variety of student needs |  |
| * Encourage educators to utilize built-in wait time in virtual settings to enhance student participation. |  |  |  |
| * Foster collaboration and flexibility within virtual learning models. |  | OCSSR hosts a community of practice for SDVS and meets with CMVS – occasionally provides joint PD and collaboration among these models |  |
| * Strive for consistency and coherence in platform usage to avoid overwhelming users and address student data privacy concerns. |  | Ed Tech Team promotes districts joining the SDPC for data privacy |  |
| * Provide resources supporting multiple learning modalities. |  |  |  |
| * Encourage integration of existing district tools/work rather than introducing numerous new, separate applications. |  | Ed Tech Team – EdTech Systems Guide |  |
| * Identify effective practices by evaluating what works across districts, acknowledging varying capabilities. |  | Ed Tech Team – EdTech Systems Guide  OCSSR – develop criteria and standards for CMVS and SLT-waiver, and support applicants as they move through the various approval processes |  |
| **Blended Learning Suggestions:** |  |  |  |
| * Establish a consistent, statewide vision for high quality blended learning (using examples like MAPLE. |  |  |  |
| * Emphasize and acknowledge that blended learning offers student choice (pace, place, path) and encourages self-investment in learning. |  |  |  |
| * Connect blended learning environments to student health and wellness by providing opportunities for student voice and choice. |  |  |  |
| * Explore “Campus Without Walls” model where schools collaborate to offer shared courses or services (e.g. wellness groups) across districts, potentially facilitated by DESE. |  |  |  |
| * Investigate leveraging state purchasing power or initiatives to help manage technology vendor costs for districts. |  |  |  |
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| **Strategic Objective #2 Deeper Learning** | | | |
| **Ed Tech Integration Suggestions:** |  |  |  |
| * Revise Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards to better support the integration of EdTech for deeper learning within educator preparation programs. |  | CIS team; DLCS standards |  |
| * Ensure pre-service educators are prepared to use current and future technology platforms effectively to make students career-ready. |  | Ed Prep team/Licensure office |  |
| * Address the gap between the EdTech skills taught in pre-service programs (e.g. university IT preference like Canvas) and the platforms actually used in K-12 districts (e.g. Google). |  | Ed Prep team |  |
| * Encourage and promote more applicable EdTech skills training within educator preparation programs. |  | Ed Prep team |  |
| * Increase resources available for EdTech teachers. |  |  |  |
| * Address the disparity between the demand for and availability of instructional technology licenses, potentially recommending less strictive pathways for program approval. |  | Licensure |  |
| * Focus on key themes: licensure, Professional development (PD), data, curriculum, resources, and learning environments, priorities the best available resources. |  | Many DESE offices |  |
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| **Virtual Learning Suggestions:** |  |  |  |
| * Leverage virtual environments to connect students with real-world applications and career professionals overcoming geographic limitations. |  |  |  |
| * Facilitate on-going mentorship relationships between students and career professionals. |  |  |  |
| * Re-examine high school graduation requirements, to support districts and ensure that they serve all students and consider incorporating relevant technology/vocational pathways (like Computer integrated manufacturing). |  |  |  |
| * Address the need for adequate funding for technology focused pathways. |  |  |  |
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| **Blended Learning Suggestions**: |  |  |  |
| * No specific points raised (could be a time limit issue). |  |  |  |

1. **Once we have finished reviewing the table, please take a moment as a group to do a lightening round in response to the question: How does digital learning align with the** [**Department’s educational vision**](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) **and three strategic objectives?**
2. **Considering virtual education (virtual and blended learning) and technology (ed tech integrations) what best practices would you suggest that DESE recommend districts implement to complement classroom instruction?**

* **Education Technology Team Update (A.J. Cote & Jacqulyn Gantzer)**
* **DESE’s Updates on CMVS/SDVS (Alison Bagg & Ruth Hersh)**
* **Establish the 2025-26 Meeting Schedule**
* **2024-25 Meeting Schedule** 
  + Wednesday, September 25th
  + Wednesday, December 4th
  + Wednesday, February 5th
  + Wednesday, May 7th
* **Adjourn** (roll call)

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)