



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Expanded Online Learning, Section 21f

Section 21f of the FY2013 State School Aid Act, allows any pupil in grades 5 to 12 to enroll in up to two online courses during an academic term, semester, or trimester. It also requires that a student taking an online course, and who is not enrolled in a school of excellence that is a cyber school, choose courses from their local district catalog or the statewide catalog of online course syllabi to be developed in partnership by the Michigan Virtual University (MVU) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and maintained by the MVU. This new provision of the law does not take effect until October 1, 2013.

It is expected that the statewide catalog will be available to schools, students, and the general public beginning in October 2013. Students and their parents will be able to review online course syllabi in the statewide catalog during the fall so that enrollment requests in online courses can be processed prior to the start of the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

For each online course title that appears in a district catalog or in the statewide catalog, a course syllabus is required. Each course syllabus must include the results of the online course quality review using the guidelines published by the MVU. The MVU will solicit feedback from the field and plans to release draft guidelines and a model review process on August 1, 2013.

The MVU and the MDE are working to develop plans to expand the statewide capacity of online course reviewers and reduce or eliminate redundant course reviews from the same online course provider.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN C. AUSTIN – PRESIDENT • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL VARNER – SECRETARY • RICHARD ZEILE – TREASURER
MICHELLE FECTEAU – NASBE DELEGATE • LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY
KATHLEEN N. STRAUS • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

Page 2
August 1, 2013

There will be many questions that the MVU and the MDE will answer over the upcoming weeks. The first step is gathering input from the field on the draft course review guidelines. Additional pupil accounting and program information will be available within the next few weeks.

Questions may be directed to Barbara Fardell, Education Technology Manager, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation, at fardellb@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance