

Other Recommendations

Under C.R.S. 22-30.7-112 (2014), (4)(a)(IV), charges the OTF with making “such additional recommendations concerning multi-district on-line schools and authorizers of multi-district on-line schools as the task force deems appropriate.”

Drop-In Center

Suggested Change
Drop-In Center/Learning Center

Suggested Addition
<p>The Online Task Force established by House Bill 14-1382 was charged with providing additional recommendations regarding multi-district on-line schools, as the Task Force deemed appropriate. The priority concern for the Task Force in this category, as determined by a survey of Task Force members, is the confusion between “Learning Centers” as defined by statute, and “Drop-in Centers.” The original “Commission” convened during the 2014 Legislative Session also identified this issue as a concern but did not have time to consider this topic because of time constraints. This concern has also been shared with the Colorado Department of Education (“CDE”) by school districts throughout the state. The concern around Drop-in Centers operating within the boundaries of a local school district was also shared with task force through a survey of high and low performing multi-district online schools. See 2x2 Survey.</p>
<p>A Learning Center is defined by C.R.S. § 22-30.7-102(4) and 1 C.C.R. 301-71, § 2.05. Nothing in the On-Line Education Programs statute (C.R.S. §§ 22-30.7-101 <i>et seq.</i>) or regulations precludes a multi-district online school from opening a facility that does not meet the statutory definition of a Learning Center. Accordingly, as far as the above statute and rule are concerned, a Drop-in Center can be established within the boundaries of another school district without that district’s consent. As a local education agency there is no recourse when a multi-district online school opens a Drop-in Center within its boundaries whether it meets the needs of the local districts education program or needs of its students.</p>
<p>However, the opening of Drop-in Centers appears to be in direct conflict with C.R.S. § 22-32-109, which provides in relevant part:</p> <p>(2) Any board conducting a complete educational program outside the territorial limits of the district in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (v) of subsection (1) of this section shall obtain the written consent of the board of the school district in which said educational program is to be conducted prior to establishing said educational program. No board shall conduct a complete educational program outside the territorial limits of the district unless the geographic and topographical characteristics of the district make the conducting of such educational program within the territorial limits of the district unduly burdensome on the district and the students.</p> <p>(Emphasis added).</p>
<p>C.R.S. § 22-32-109(2) states that prior to a board offering a complete educational program within another school district’s boundaries, it must obtain the written consent of that local board of education. It is our understanding that Drop-in Centers offer complete educational programs for students. In other</p>

words, it wouldn't be necessary for a student enrolled in the Online School to attend any other Drop-in Center in a different school district for any part of his/her curriculum. His/her entire curriculum needs would be addressed in only one Drop-in Center.

Accordingly, prior to opening a Drop-in Center, any Online School should be required to obtain the written consent of the local board of education.

Modify state statute to define the term drop-in center (to be distinguished from learning center), and require authorizers proposing to operate drop-in centers to comply with the process already defined in statute for authorizers proposing to open learning centers within the boundaries of other school districts. (Establishment of MOU, appeals process, etc.) Any drop-in center currently operating would be required to engage in this process for the 2015-16 school year.

Transfer Rate

Modify statute regarding documentation of active participation for online enrollment to allow online schools to meet the same standard as physical schools (documentation of attendance on count date or the alternate dates as currently defined), so long as the school's transfer rate between the October count date and the end of the school year remains under 10%. Any online school having a transfer rate of 10% or higher after October count would be required to submit detailed documentation (as currently defined) the following year for every student, and each year thereafter, until it can demonstrate 2 consecutive years with a post-October count transfer rate under 10%.

Blended and Online Learning

Definitions of each, identifying of overlaps, and address blurred boundaries.

Blended Student Count Process

October Count revisions that would address blended models.

Compulsory Attendance & Hours in School

Statutory revisions around compulsory attendance based on hours in school.

Daily Membership Tracking

Inclusion of mobility data reporting and/or collecting to track daily membership.

Learning Center

Statutory revision to give a local board of education the ability to retain or recover exclusive authority to authorize multi-district online schools within the geographic boundaries of the school district.

