

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

2011 SESSION - PROPOSED SBE POLICY PRINCIPLES

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POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 1

- ✘ Mixed model instructional programs – those that strategically integrate virtual and in-person instructional delivery models – are the wave of the future. State policies should aid, not hinder, this trend.

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 2

- ✘ It is important to develop some concept of basic education entitlement for virtual learners.
 - + Bricks & Mortar students are entitled to access 1,000 hours, and at least 180 days. They are also entitled to a minimum staffing ratio of 46 cert. instructional staff per 1,000 students. What is the ALE equivalent?

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 3

- ✘ Virtual learning should be viewed as a complement to, rather than a replacement for, in-person instruction.
- + It should not be possible to progress through K-12 public schools without any in-person or “real time” instruction with a certified educator.
- + Difference between *curriculum* and *instruction*

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 4

- ✘ Current school funding models – originally developed to fund bricks-and-mortar programs – need to be re-thought in the context of non-seat time-based programs.

Misfits include:

- + Levy equalization
- + School construction
- + LAP funding
- + Non-high funding

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 5

- ✘ ALE programs are more effective in certain contexts.
 - ✘ AGE – older students are better equipped to take advantage of independent learning models
 - ✘ SUBJECT – certain subjects lend themselves to virtual delivery, others don't.
 - ✘ Foreign language courses versus speech, drama, physical fitness and other inherently interactive courses.
 - ✘ NEED – Students acquire certain interpersonal and communication skills in face-to-face situations

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 6

- ✘ Home schooling is an excellent educational delivery model for certain families; however, in difficult economic times, the state cannot afford to subsidize them, at the expense of general education programs.
 - + Parent Partnership programs
 - + If these K-6 programs did not exist, would the parent send their child to public school?

POLICY PRINCIPLE NUMBER 7

- ✘ The different ALE program labels – online (including 3 sub-categories), parent partnerships, and alternative high schools – are so broad, encompassing such a vast array of programs, that they cease to be meaningful. A different vocabulary is needed.