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## Online Learning Policy Development Seminar

Project Socrates  
May 14, 2004

*David B. Glick, M.A., M.Ed.*  
*Educational Consulting*

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## A bit about me

- David Glick
  - University of WI Certified Distance Educator
  - Licensed principal & teacher
  - Former Education Project Manager, TPT
  - Former Online Learning Coord., MN Dept. of Ed.
  - Former MEEP Coordinator, MN Dept. of Ed.
  - Former Curriculum/Staff Development Coord.
  - Former H.S. Physics & Physical Science teacher

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## What is online learning?

- Location
  - In the schools
  - At home
- Time
  - Real time
  - Anytime, anywhere
- Hybrid programs
- Cyber schools (and cyber-charter schools)
- A challenge to many of our assumptions

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## Who's doing it?

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- Low-performing students
- High-performing students
- Rural students
- Suburban/Urban students
- PSEO students
- Homebound/hospital-bound students
- Home-school students
- Students with a unique interest
- Students who wish to avoid social issues.

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## Huge number of issues raised...

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- Funding
- Equity
- Audience
- Attendance & residency
- Student/course eligibility
- Liability
- Quality
- Teacher contract issues

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*Policies & procedures  
necessary depend on  
the model to be  
implemented*

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## The Current Statute (2003)

- Maximum of 12 semester courses per student per year – or equivalent.
- Online courses must be treated the same as other courses/transfer courses.
- Online students must have the same graduation requirements as other students.
- Students can take courses from grade levels other than their own.
- Student may enroll in an online course from approved provider on 30 days notice to district of enrollment.

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## The Current Statute (2003)

- Maximum of 40 students per teacher in a course or program.
- High interactivity expected, but no face time requirement.
- Curriculum can be developed by anyone.
- Instruction must be “assembled and delivered” by MN teacher.
- Districts can challenge approved programs/courses

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## The Current Statute (2003)

- Only providers offering courses outside district boundaries or to home/private school students (current or previous year) need apply to MDE.
- Public schools, charter schools, and consortia can be providers.
- Funding split between provider and enrolling districts
  - 12% of gen. ed. revenue to district of enrollment
  - 88% of basic revenue to provider district
- Application carries \$250 fee.

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## Where do we start?

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- What problem are you trying to solve?
- Which students are you trying to serve?
- What resources are you willing to invest?
- What does your community want?
  - Students
  - Parents
  - Teachers
  - School board
  - Administrators
- Who buys in to what?

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## Where do we start? Part II

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- Online Learning Option Act
  - One of several federal & state statutes
- “No-brainer” policy statements
  - Do your current policies match?
- Questions to wrestle with
  - Read & prioritize
  - Pick a few tough ones to answer
- Go for it!

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