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**NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ONLINE LEARNING RELEASED**  
*Report Focuses on Ensuring Quality Online Courses*

VIENNA, Va. (Oct. 12) – New national standards released today provide states, districts, online programs and other organizations with a set of guidelines for ensuring quality online courses in K-12 education.

The guidelines, which were issued in the report *National Standards for Quality Online Courses, Version 2*, were released by a committee of experts established by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL).

“By offering up a set of guidelines to promote quality online courses, it is our hope that all students engaged in online and blended learning programs will be given the opportunity to access a world-class education,” said Susan Patrick, contributor to the report and president of iNACOL.

“The committee’s standards, which focus on alignment of online course content to state academic standards, instructional design, technology, student assessment and course management, offer both guidance and recommendations for ensuring that each online course aids in the educational development of K-12 students engaged in online and blended learning,” Patrick said. “The committee’s guidelines are a significant contribution to the field in quality review of online courses.”

The development of the standards consisted of an extensive literature review of existing guidelines set for quality online courses, followed by a survey offered to members of the iNACOL network to ensure the efficacy of the guidelines adopted.

Over the past three years, iNACOL has received positive feedback on the standards, as educational institutions have successfully applied the guidelines in order to develop, enhance and review online courses.

The *National Standards for Quality Online Courses, Version 2* are available at [www.inacol.org](http://www.inacol.org).

**About iNACOL**

INACOL is the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership association based in the Washington, DC area with more than 3,800 members. INACOL is unique in that its members represent a diverse cross-section of K-12 education from school districts, charter schools, state education agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities and research institutions, corporate entities and other content and technology providers ([www.inacol.org](http://www.inacol.org)). INACOL is host to the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS). VSS 2011 is being held Nov. 9 - 11, 2011 in Indianapolis, IN ([www.virtualschoolsymposium.org](http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org)).