

ALEC Education Task Force: How Online Learning Can Increase Opportunities for Students

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International Perspective: Around the World . . .

- Mexico: Digitized curriculum for all schools - K-12 academic content online; all teachers trained to use online content
- EU: IB Diploma Programme Online (125 countries)
- Turkey: 0-15 million students in K-12 taking online courses in 3 years
- India:
 - Universal Access for K-12 Education in 10 years
 - Need 200,000 more schools
 - Shortage of good teachers
 - “Leverage teachers using technology to bring to scale”
 - Educomp Program digitizing learning resources (online content) in K-12 education
 - View as export opportunity
- Singapore: 100% of Secondary schools use online learning; all teachers trained to teach online
- China: 1.3 billion people
 - Digitized K-12 curriculum
 - Training Master Teachers to teach online
 - With online learning: increase educational opportunities to 100 million new students
- UK: E-Learning Exports - 29 billion pounds annually; deal with China



Do All Students Have Access to the Highest Quality Education?

- **“Advanced Diploma” Courses**
- **Additional Course Offerings**
 - **Advanced Placement, IB or Dual Enrollment/Credit Courses**
 - **Math & Science Courses**
 - **Foreign Languages**
- **Remediation and Supplemental Resources**
- **Excellent teachers/Highly Qualified Teachers**
- **Multimedia and Technology Tools to Enhance and Personalize Instruction**

K-12 Online Learning: National Overview

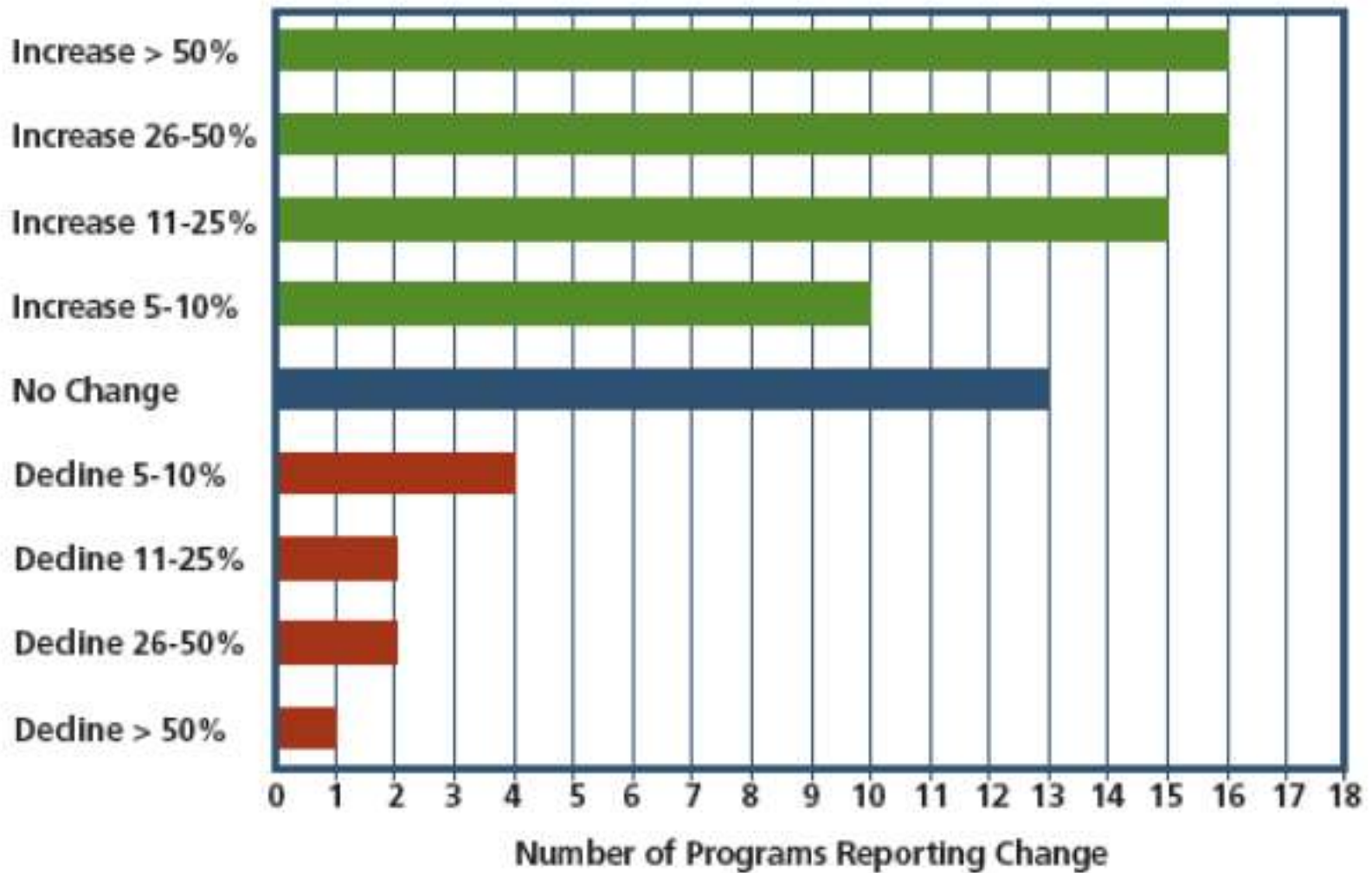
- The K-12 online learning market is growing rapidly at 30% annually
- In K-12:
 - 32 states with statewide virtual schools (Keeping Pace 2008)
 - More than 70% of all school districts across the United States offer online and distance learning (Sloan-C Study)
 - 18 states with 173 full-time virtual school programs (Center for Education Reform)

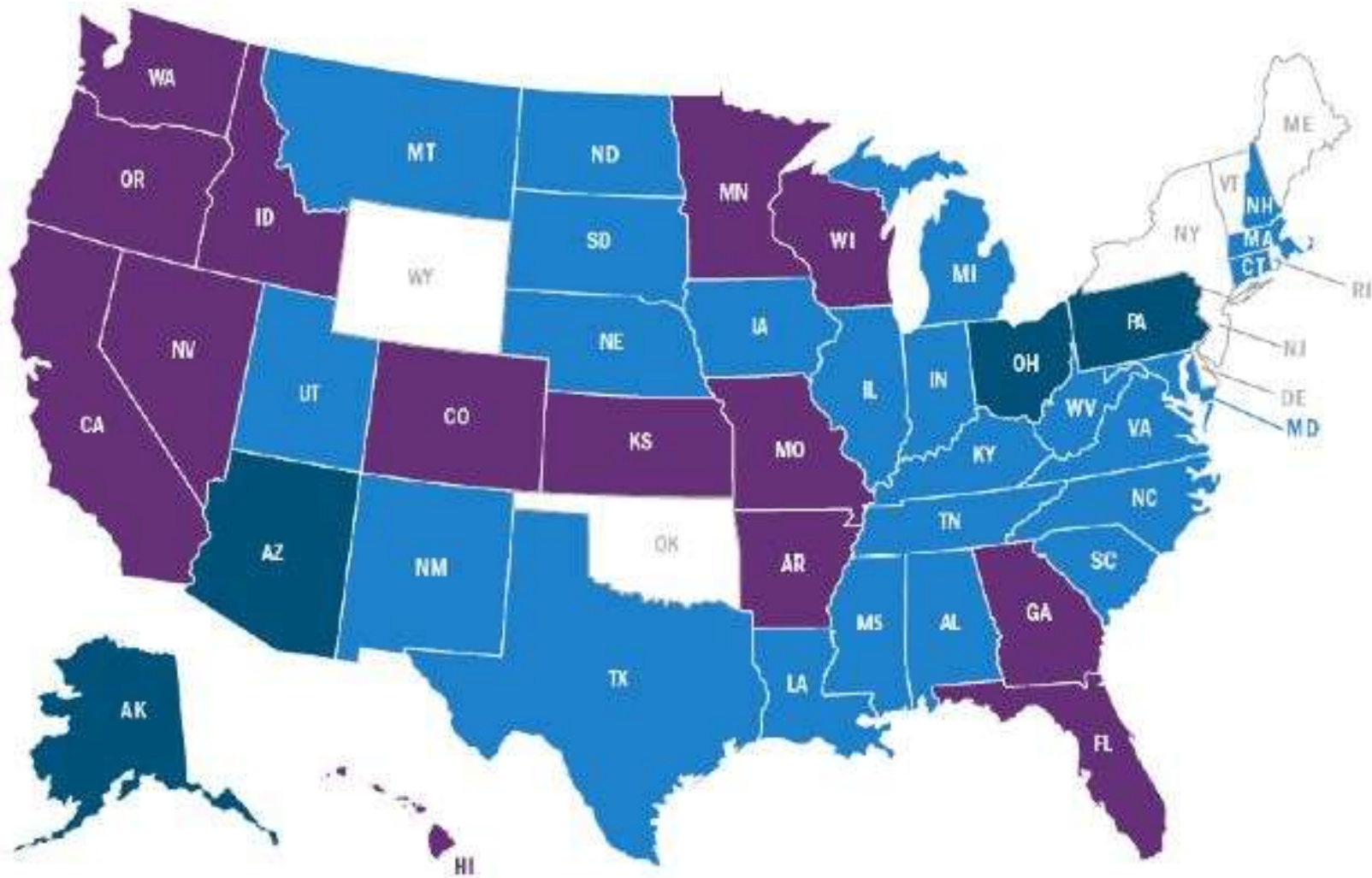


National Online Learning Trends: Explosive Growth

- Growth of 30% annually nationwide
- K-12 Online Learning enrollments growing
 - 2000, there were 50,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses
 - 2003, there were 320,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses
 - 2005, there were 508,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses
 - 2006, there were 700,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses
 - 2007, there were 1,000,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses
 - 2008, ~2,000,000 enrollments (estimated in online/blended courses)

Change in online programs' size, 2006-2007





- States with significant supplemental state-led or multi-district online programs or initiatives
- States with significant full-time, multi-district programs
- States with both
- States with neither

Figure 1: National summary of how online learning is being implemented across the country.

K-12 Online Learning Benefits

- E-learning: strategy for addressing school reform
 - Access to a high quality, rigorous curriculum for every student
 - Science, Technology, Math and Engineering (STEM)
 - Foreign languages (Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, Latin, etc.)
 - AP and advanced courses
 - New data, accountability and real-time assessments
 - Teacher quality and shortages (distribution)
 - Remediation for on-time graduation
 - Core courses
 - Credit recovery and remediation
 - Student engagement
 - Engaging, emphasis on writing and interaction
 - Cost-effectiveness
- Every state model is different and may include:
 - Supplemental programs - State or district virtual school programs help meet the need for more middle grades and high school academic courses
 - Full-time K-12 virtual schools - cyber charter schools help meet choice options for parents in 18 states
 - Dual-enrollment with high schools & college credit (online courses)
 - Both or all of the above



Virtual Schools & K-12 Online Learning

- Virtual schools (supplemental/part-time programs) help meet the need for more middle grades and high school academic courses.
- Virtual schools offer full-time programs across K-12
- Virtual schools assist students who:
 - attend schools that are unable to provide certain courses;
 - need an alternative to traditional education;
 - want expanded options; and
 - need to retake courses to meet academic requirements;
 - have physical disabilities or prolonged absences from school because of illness.
 - are “at risk”
 - are gifted

National Standards of Quality for Online Courses





State Program Models, Policies and Legislative Trends

State Trends: Florida Virtual School

- www.FLVS.org
 - Started in 1996 to “break the mold” in education (innovation grant)
 - Based on “Prisoners of Time” report; student-centered, instructor-led courses; asynchronous and synchronous
 - Competency-based; performance funding based on successful completion, not seat time
 - Set up as a separate LEA (school district)
 - School districts may not limit access to courses offered through virtual school
 - In 2008, 100,000 enrollments in Florida Virtual School (statewide supplemental online program)
 - 2007 Florida Tax Watch Report:
 - Students academically performed better
 - Served higher population of underserved students
 - New standard of accountability
 - **Better use of tax payer dollars with results**



State Trends: Georgia Virtual School

- Georgia Department of Education
 - Professional Development for Online Teaching
 - Teaching License/Online Endorsement
- Georgia Virtual School Implementation
 - AP Courses: Year 1
 - Core/Basic Courses: Year 2
 - Credit Recovery: Year 3

State Trends: Dual Enrollment

- California: High Schools & Community Colleges (online courses/dual-enrollment)
- New Mexico P-20 E-Learning Network
 - AP and college preparatory courses in high school
 - Dual/concurrent enrollment
 - Core content area courses
 - Foreign languages
 - Remediation
 - Offered by:
 - Universities
 - Community Colleges
 - K-12
 - Pre-K
- North Carolina: UNC-G & Community Colleges



Alabama ACCESS: Online Learning

- Goal: To deliver high quality, advanced courses to students statewide via online learning
- \$30M over 3 years: upgrade network, 21st century classrooms, train teachers, invest in content
- Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA) is the networking technology partner for the ACCESS project
- Funding 21st century classrooms using online learning
- ACCESS students: Chinese, French, German and Latin; advanced placement (AP) calculus, AP English literature and composition, AP macroeconomics, and marine science are courses now available
- "Using technology to provide those opportunities not only increases the rigor of instruction, but it also acclimates students to the use of technology and prepares them for a 21st century workforce." - Governor Riley



Michigan Online Learning HS Graduation Requirement

- First state to require “online learning” in 2006 as part of updated, more rigorous high school graduation requirements
- In new requirements: “every student must have an online learning experience or course” before graduating from high school
- Why? Need for online learning is greatest with students to access skills they will need to get ahead and compete in an increasingly technological workplace

Sharing Research to Inform Policy



Synthesis of Research in K-12 Online Learning

- #1 Online Learning Expands Options
 - “The first impetus to the growth of K-12 distance education was an interest in expanding educational options and providing equal opportunities for all learners.” (p.7)
- #2 Is Effective: “Equal or Better”
 - “One conclusion seems clear: On average, students seem to perform equally well or better academically in online learning.” (p. 17)
- #3 Improves Teaching
 - Teachers who teach online reported positive improvements in face-to-face, too.
 - “Of those who reported teaching face-to-face while teaching online or subsequently, three in four reported a positive impact on their face-to-face teaching.”
(p. 25)



Blended Learning: “Best of Both Worlds”

“Blended learning should be approached as not only a temporal construct, but rather as a fundamental redesign of the instructional model with the following characteristics:

“A shift from lecture- to student-centered instruction where students become interactive learners (this shift should apply to entire course, including face-to-face sessions);

Increases in interaction between student-instructor, student-student, student-content, and student-outside resources; and

Integrated formative and summative assessment mechanisms for student and instructor.” - Educause, *Blended Learning* (2004)

Blended/Hybrid Learning

- “Combining face-to-face with fully online components optimizes both environments in ways impossible in other formats” -Educause Research Bulletin, 2004
 - Digital content, curriculum, LMS, online assessments, data system, AI, simulations
 - Shift in instructional model and training



Struggling student, low-engagement,
(More direct student support needed)

Self-direction, high engagement,
(Less direct student support needed)

Challenges and Recommendations for States: Online Learning

- Different models in all 50 states
- Financial: Equitable funding models
 - Reducing inequity
 - Funding based on seat-time not viable; performance-based; competency
 - Funding systems should be fair and flexible for both traditional and online models
- Equity: Expanding Access for All Students
 - Regulatory policy has not kept pace with innovation of allowing online learning for all students
 - Enrollment caps (as well as funding models) limit access
- Quality Assurance
 - Quality assurance should be fair for both traditional and online models
 - National Standards of Quality for Online Courses
 - National Quality Standards for Online Teaching
 - National Quality Standards for Online Programs
- Teacher Preparation
 - Different set of skills for online teaching (offer in pre-service and in-service)
 - Professional development and certification
 - True teaching reciprocity needed across states (as in North Dakota) to deal with teaching shortages

World Future Society

Top 10 Breakthroughs Transforming Life
over the next 20-30 years

Best forecast data ever assembled

1. Alternative energy
2. Desalination of water
3. Precision farming
4. Biometrics
5. Quantum computers
6. Entertainment on demand
7. Global access
- 8. *Virtual education or distance learning***
9. Nanotechnology
10. Smart Robots

Thank You!

Questions?

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