

281—15.3(256) Online learning—private providers.

15.3(1) *Online learning model established.* An online learning program model is established by the director, pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.9, that provides districts and accredited nonpublic schools with a list of approved online providers. Approved providers will meet criteria for approval in accordance with Iowa Code section 256.43(1)“a.”

15.3(2) *Use of approved private providers.* Courses developed by private providers may be utilized by a school district or school in implementing a high-quality online learning program in circumstances described in Iowa Code section 256.43(2)“a.”

15.3(3) *Approval criteria.* The department will maintain a list of approved online providers that provide course content through an online learning platform whose content and delivery meet the following provisions:

- a. Courses meet the standards of Iowa Code section 256.7(32)“c.”
- b. The provider supplies coursework customized to the needs of the student.
- c. The provider offers a means for a student to demonstrate competency in completed online coursework.
- d. Courses provide online content and instruction evaluated on the basis of student learning outcomes.

15.3(4) *Approval process.* Private providers of online course content or full-time online instruction will apply for approval to offer such services to Iowa school districts and accredited nonpublic schools a minimum of once every five years on forms provided by the department. Applications to provide services may be received at any time; however, the department will give preference to applications received no later than May 1 during the year prior to the school year in which the provider intends to provide services. Applications received by the deadline of May 1 will be answered no later than June 1. An approved provider will also apply in each year that any of these alterations take place, which are substantial in nature:

- a. The provider altered the courses or content offered by either adding or subtracting grade levels or subjects.
- b. The provider altered the delivery of the courses or content offered by altering the learning management system or delivery of assessments.
- c. The provider altered the evaluation of student learning used in the system.
- d. The provider altered the online learning content or delivery in any other way that may reasonably be considered material to a school district considering the use of a private provider.

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