

281—15.7(256) Online learning program provided by a school district—online schools.

15.7(1) *Online learning program provided by a school district.* A school district may provide an online learning program delivered primarily over the Internet which operates as an online school. Such a program shall do all of the following with regard to instruction and content:

- a. Monitor and verify full-time student enrollment, timely completion of graduation requirements, course credit accrual, and course completion.
- b. Monitor and verify student progress and performance in each course through a school-based assessment plan that includes submission of coursework and security and validity of testing components.
- c. Conduct parent-teacher conferences.
- d. Administer assessments required by the state to all students in a proctored setting and pursuant to state law.

15.7(2) *Course content and delivery.* Content and delivery provided by an online learning program established pursuant to this rule must meet the following requirements:

- a. Courses are taught by teachers licensed under Iowa Code chapter 272.
- b. Courses are taught by teachers who have specialized training or experience in online learning including but not limited to an online-learning-for-Iowa-educators-professional-development project offered by area education agencies, a teacher preservice program, comparable coursework, or relevant experience.
- c. Courses provide access to rigorous, high-quality content and instructional materials aligned with the Iowa core content standards and blended learning.
- d. Courses provide content and instructional practices aligned with the national standards of quality for online courses issued by an internationally recognized association for kindergarten through grade 12 online learning.
- e. Grades in online courses are based, at a minimum, on whether a student mastered the subject, demonstrated competency, and met the standards established by the school district. Grades may be conferred only by teachers licensed under Iowa Code chapter 272.

15.7(3) *Approval criteria.* The department shall maintain a list of approved school districts that provide course content through an online learning platform whose content and delivery meets the requirements of subrule 15.7(2).

15.7(4) *Approval process.* School district providers of online course content or full-time online instruction shall apply for approval to offer such services to Iowa districts and accredited nonpublic schools a minimum of once every three years on forms provided by the department. If a school district is providing full-time online instruction only to its resident students and not to any other students, the school district need not seek approval; however, the school district must ensure it meets the requirements of subrules 15.7(1) and 15.7(2). Applications must be received by the department no later than January 1 during the year prior to the school year in which the provider intends to provide services. Applications received by the deadline of January 1 will be answered no later than February 1. An approved provider under this rule shall also apply in each year that any of the following apply:

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

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