
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Des Moines Public Schools Virtual Campus Offers Online Learning

[Senate File 394](#) (Online Education Offer and Teach) amends Iowa Code section [256.42](#) to allow Iowa Learning Online (ILO), school districts, or accredited nonpublic schools to provide specific online courses. ILO recently announced the end of its program after the 2019-2020 school year. ILO had a 2018-2019 estimated enrollment of 1,702 students in 97 different school districts, with enrollment in world languages accounting for 80.0% of enrollment.

Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) Virtual Campus has been approved by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to provide online courses. DMPS Virtual Campus piloted a program in the 2018-2019 school year with 75 enrolled students, 3 full-time teachers, and 16 adjunct teachers. For the 2019-2020 school year, enrollment capacity has been increased to 400 students with 12 full-time staff members and a few adjunct teachers. Currently there are about 300 students enrolled.

Virtual Campus Program Details

DMPS Virtual Campus has district-developed content and uses Canvas as its learning platform. The typical school semester schedule is divided between two eight-week terms, allowing students to take three to four courses per term, resulting in six to eight courses per semester. Weekly participation is tracked, including attendance, completed assignments, and progress of coursework. Nonparticipation is monitored, with an established follow-up protocol. Grades 9-12 full-time enrollment is available, and sufficient [coursework](#) is provided to meet graduation requirements. Students enrolled in the DMPS Virtual Campus will be participating in the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) using a proctored testing format.

DMPS Virtual Campus is currently developing a pilot program with two other school districts using an Iowa Code chapter [28E](#) agreement to offer coursework to students outside of the Des Moines school district. Foreign language courses are not currently available but may be offered for the 2020-2021 school year.

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More Information

Des Moines Public School Virtual Campus: virtualcampusdmschools.org

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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