

State Board Of Education
Committee on Virtual Charter Schools

October 22, 2018, 10:30 AM (ET)
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room D
302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

I. Call to Order

- A. Roll Call
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of the Agenda

- A. Agenda was unanimously approved.

III. Legislative Recommendations Discussion

A. Recommendation 1: Single Authorizer

- 1. After discussion, committee members reached consensus on recommending a single authorizer for virtual charter schools with phasing for existing charter contracts at 12 months after the end of the school year.

B. Recommendation 2: Authorizing Fees

- 1. The committee determined that a cap of 1.25%, instead of current 3%, should be placed on the fee received by authorizer.
- 2. The cap can be exceeded if actual costs are higher than that figure via a request for an annual waiver.

C. Recommendation 3: Require Mandatory Onboarding

- 1. The committee agreed that mandatory onboarding should be required of virtual schools with consideration for the language related to learning coaches.

D. Recommendation 4: Accountability Grades

- 1. Committee members agreed to recommend that a charter school be subject to consequences from the State Board of Education after receiving four consecutive F grades, regardless of the number of years remaining on the charter agreement.

E. Recommendation 5: Controlled Growth

- 1. The committee recommended annual growth be capped at 15% each year, but only once the number of students in a virtual school reaches 250. This number could be waived if minimum performance standards are met.

F. Recommendation 6: Teacher-Student Ratios

- 1. The committee's consensus was that the student-teacher ratio for grades K-6 be 50:1 and the student-teacher ratio for grades 7-12 be 100:1.

G. Recommendation 7: Funding for All Virtual Education

- 1. Instead of a reduced amount compared to students in virtual programs at brick and mortar school locations, the committee recommends that the amount awarded per student, whether virtual charter or virtual program, be equal.

- H. Recommendation 8: Revise Indiana Code to enable State Board of Education to promulgate regulations that relate to all virtual programs
 - 1. Committee members recommend that a request be made of the State Legislature to give the Board the authority to promulgate regulations to allow for greater accountability going forward for virtual programs as well as virtual charter schools.
- I. Recommendation 9: Virtual charter schools receiving the lowest accountability grade for four (4) consecutive years have enrollment consequences.
 - 1. The committee recommends that virtual charter schools placed in the lowest accountability category for (4) four consecutive years face the same consequences as regular charter schools, regardless of the number of years remaining on their contracts.
- J. The committee chair stated though the committee is not making official recommendations on some topics, they are worth noting for future consideration. Those topic include:
 - 1. How to fund virtual charters in the future; and
 - 2. Accountability for students who transfer is not shared with the schools from which they came, but follows the student.
- K. Recommendation 10: Establish a standard by which virtual programs in traditional schools become virtual schools
 - 1. Committee members recommend that if a certain percentage of the students in a school receive more than 50% of their education virtually (according to the language already in statute), the school is required to create a virtual school for those students.

IV. Adjournment