Overview of Virtual Education in Kansas

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS= 11 (09-10 school year)

- Independent school within a district with a building number
- "Virtual School" means any school education program that:
    1. Is offered for credit;
    2. Uses distance learning technologies which predominately use internet-based instruction;
    3. Involves instruction that occurs asynchronously with the teacher and pupil in separate locations;
    4. Requires the pupil to demonstrate competence in subject matter for each class or subject in which the pupil is enrolled as part of the virtual school; and
    5. Requires age-appropriate pupils to complete the state assessment tests.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS= 33 (09-10 school year)

- An educational opportunity offered within or outside of the school day usually associated with an existing school building or service center.

Virtual Education Requirements

KSDE Responsibilities:

- A visiting team will be selected by KSDE prior to enrollment of students in the online program. The visiting team will submit a recommendation for approval/disapproval of the program to KSDE. The visiting team's/KSDE role is to:
    - Evaluate the online program based on the criteria (outlined in this document);
    - Submit a recommendation to KSDE for approval;
    - Conduct a follow-up visit by April 15 of the initial program year to ensure established guidelines have been followed;
    - Monitor schools annually; and
    - Present annually to the Kansas State Board of Education all Virtual School Applications that have been approved for the current school year.

Program Responsibilities:

- All staff must be licensed in Kansas
- All staff must be trained in virtual education pedagogy
- All schools/programs must follow QPA regulations
- All students must take state assessments
- State assessments and high school finals must be proctored
- Communication structure must be established
- All schools/programs must be approved by a team prior to enrolling students
- All schools/programs are monitored annually
- All students must be Kansas residents to be funded
- Students are counted as directed by current Counting Kids Manual
- KSDE Academic Activity Log: two required for each student

Recommendations of the Virtual Advisory Council

Personnel Requirements:

- Continue all teachers to be Kansas licensed and move toward highly qualified.
- Organize a database of Kansas Virtual Licensed Staff including the directors.
- Continue to monitor current requirements of this section
- Emphasize the importance of professional development training for virtual teachers and staff

Enrollment and Attendance:

- Continue to require residency of students
- Evaluate the current process for counting virtual students and change how funding is currently determined. Move toward funding based on learning time versus seat time.
- Allow a virtual student to work within a blended approach to receiving curriculum requirements.

Program and Course Curriculum:

- Develop and implement a statewide list of all curriculum programs offered throughout the state.
- Continue to follow and adhere to the regulation that all final high school assessments be proctored in every course. This includes students in programs and virtual schools as current regulations require.
- Establish that all programs will gather data on their virtual students apart from their traditional students. This includes all service center providers.

Receiving and Recording Course Credits, School Improvement, and Student & Parent Responsibilities:

- Emphasize the importance that credits are awarded when all goals and objectives are met.
- Virtual schools/programs will follow state accreditation regulations.
- Emphasize the importance of a training session on all technical components of the curriculum for parents and students.