

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents and Finance Managers

From: Ms. Tracy Brown, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. John Keller, Chief Technology Officer
Dr. Andrew Melin, Chief Innovation Officer

Date: June 14, 2019

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 567 - Virtual Education

Background:

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 567 amends and adds language concerning virtual education programs, dedicated virtual education schools, and the creation of an on-boarding process and orientation with a parent and/or student. Additionally, a virtual charter school authorizer is required to establish requirements or guidelines for virtual charter schools it authorizes.

Guidance:

SEA 567 provides a definition of a virtual education program provided by a school corporations as one in which more than 50 percent of instruction, other than instruction for credit recovery courses, to students participating in the program is provided in an interactive learning environment created through technology in which the student is separated from a teacher by time, space, or both.

The State Board of Education may adopt rules regarding virtual education programs.

Students who do not participate in a virtual education program before July 1, 2020 must complete an annual on-boarding process and orientation before participating in a virtual education program. The law requires a parent to participate in an annual on-boarding process and orientation for a child to participate in a virtual education program. (IC 20-19-18)

Pursuant to IC 20-19-8-4, any school corporation establishing a school where at least 50 percent of instruction (excluding credit recovery) will be provided virtually to the lesser of: at least 100 students enrolled in the school corporation; or 30 percent of the total number of students enrolled in the school corporation, should submit a corporation profile amendment form and all supplementary documentation to schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov.

A student who participates in a virtual education program must be an Indiana resident.

(continued)

Additionally, the bill defines a virtual charter school as “any charter school, including a conversion charter school, in which more than fifty percent (50%) of instruction is provided in an interactive learning environment created through technology in which students are separated from their teacher by time, space, or both.” (IC 20-24-1-10)

A virtual charter school that has a charter on June 30, 2019 may only renew a charter with a statewide authorizer. (IC 20-24-7-13). If a virtual charter does not meet minimum renewal requirements, the state board must hold a hearing and implement certain actions.

The provision in the bill that funds virtual charter school students at 90 percent of foundation was amended in Section 209 of the HEA 1001-2019 to provide for funding of virtual students at 85 percent of foundation (IC 20-24-7-13). Foundation funding at 85 percent applies to students attending a virtual school or virtual program operated by a school corporation, charter schools and virtual charter schools.

An individual who is employed as a licensed teacher at a virtual charter school must comply with any mandatory licensed teacher training.

A non-code provision urges the legislative council to assign an interim study committee to analyze and study the financing and expenditures of virtual charter schools.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Ambre at (317) 232-0841 or e-mail her at mambre@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Senator Jeff Raatz and full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).