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| **Digital Learning Advisory Council**[[1]](#footnote-2)**:** | September 25, 2024 |
| **Time:** | 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM |
| **General Public Registration Zoom Link:** | <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NBYkd7XdQeiBR5sTrVzInA>  --- |
| **Location:** | Remote Participation - Online |
| **Attendee Information:** | Digital Learning Advisory Council (DLAC) |

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* **Welcome**
* **Introductions of Remote Participants**
* DLAC members:
* Daniel Downs (chair)
* Sarah Haavind
* Cindy Yetman
* Jared Perrine
* Bill Silver
* Elizabeth Tripathi
* Scott Morrison
* Stacy Young
* **DESE:** Ruth Hersh, Jackie Gantzer, Alison Bagg
* **Review and Approve Minutes from June 12, 2024, DLAC Meeting (roll call)**
* **Motion to approve – Cindy**
* **Second – Beth**
* **Roll Call:**
* Daniel Downs (chair) - yes
* Sarah Haavind - yes
* Cindy Yetman - yes
* Jared Perrine - yes
* Bill Silver – abstain (did not attend last meeting)
* Elizabeth Tripathi -yes
* Scott Morrison - yes
* Stacy Young - yes
* **Advisory Council Orientation and Reminders** 
  + DLAC Charge – from the Commissioner for SY25. Shared with Chair Downs on September 24, 2024.
    - Look at how digital learning aligns with the Department’s educational vision and three strategic objectives.
    - Advice regarding virtual schools, supplemental online courses, education technology and other matters related to virtual education, including, but not limited to, recommendations for best practices to encourage online education to complement classroom instruction in district schools; and,
    - Provide additional programmatic recommendations, as it deems necessary, to fulfill the goals established by the Board and align with the Department’s [Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) and [Strategic Objectives.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/vision-supports.pdf)
    - Short version of Ed Vision:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) continues to promote an [educational vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) which encourages all educators to provide learning environments where:

* All students are known and valued;
* Learning experiences are relevant, real-world, and interactive; and
* Individualized supports allow all students to excel.
  + - Member comment: Let’s dig into the Educational Vision during the December meeting. Discuss first element of CMMR’s charge for DLAC. Is there a strong representation for CMVS in Western MA?
  + Webinar Format: moving to the Zoom Webinar Format for this school year for safety reasons.
  + New Member Outreach: seeking a secondary administrator and individual who represents an organization that performs research. Ruth will send email to collect resumes and letters of interest through September 30.
    - Member comment: Current membership does not represent the Western region of the state. Equity issue, it is important for rural and Western MA to be represented.
    - DESE staff: We can provide the DLAC the SY23 annual legislative report when it is approved. It shows CMVS enrollment by district.
    - Member comment: can we look at resumes?
    - Member comment: Will we continue to use Zoom to meet? Shift how we advertise the meetings as virtual.
    - Member comment: I would like to know how tech is implemented across the virtual schools, is it different from across the state? How are virtual schools designed to support student learning with tech, is there an equity piece? Compare proposals to implementation. Interesting topic.
  + Committees, subcommittees or working groups and Open Meeting Law

[Open Meeting Law Guide](https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-guide-and-educational-materials-0/download), p. 6-7. See also the Attorney General’s [Frequently Asked Questions about the OML: Deliberation and Electronic Communication](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law#frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law:-deliberation-and-electronic-communication-)

* **Consider The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s** (DESE) [Educational Vision](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2023-05/item7.1-educational-vision.pdf) and [DESE’s resources](https://www.doe.mass.edu/commissioner/vision/catalog.xlsx)
* **DESE’s Updates on CMVS/SDVS (Alison Bagg & Ruth Hersh)** 
  + **CMVS:**
  + TECCA and GCVS are seeking an increase of tuition rate. CMMR will bring recommendation to BESE in November.
  + CMMR will bring a memo to BESE in October about Felix: a report on conditions and request from Felix to extend the certificate beyond 19-month; delay its opening from September 2025 to September 2026.
  + Member question for Felix: have they applied for an opening grant, a lot of money, did they get the grant, have they spent the money? DESE:
  + Member question: how many students will Felix serve? DESE: 700
  + **SDVS:**
  + Closure of Pittsfield end of 2023; Westfield closed end of 2024, no new SDVS opening this year. Remember: DESE only reviews proposals, not approve. Local decision. 7 schools total. Community of Practice will be offered this year again. Professional development from DESE offices: Public School Monitoring, Office of Language Acquisition as well as ongoing office hours.
* **Education Technology Team Update (A.J. Cote & Jacqulyn Gantzer)**
  + Helping schools and districts **plan for technology integration**.
  + Overhaul of **strategic planning guide** (first provided in 2021, with DLAC support). We had 1-2 DLAC members review our revised guide. We have a lot of examples in the guide from districts.
  + Hosting **3rd year of peer learning cohort** – 10-12 district technology teams. Strengthen tech systems – quarterly collaboration/challenge/learning.
    - The Learning Accelerator has collected and published the shred learning from the cohort <https://learningaccelerator.org/blog/new-tools-for-school-and-system-edtech-leaders>
  + Continue **monthly open-source meetings with ed tech leaders**
  + **AI task force** – launched over summer. 20 individuals’ current employees of MA schools or districts. Wide range of diverse perspectives: geography, professional role, identities. 3-4 meetings already. Shared understanding of AI, how sits in ed landscape, opportunities and risks, reviewed guidance and resources published by other states. Also reviewed additional stakeholder input – such as notes from DLAC. DESE vendor held listening sessions with stakeholders – hopes, needs, fears with students, families, teachers, etc. will soon release a set of recommendations – keeping goals of racial equity and educational vision in mind.
  + Member: This is the AFT AI Guardrails document Version 1. I am participating in a Focus group that will develop Version 2: <https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2024/Commonsense_Guardrails_AI_0604.pdf#:~:text=AFT%E2%80%99s%20Ad%20Hoc%20Committee%20on%20Artificial>
  + Member: Will cell phone issue be rolled into the AI recommendations? How balance question of kids overusing cell phones/safety or use it for good in classroom.
  + DESE answer: I do not anticipate that recommendations will be addressed in AI task force recommendations. The AG’s office has been leading a multi-state agency **working group on cell phones**. They are providing tougher guidance and resources specific to cell phones and social media. This will be released later this year.
  + Member: can we have an update on cell phone/social media guidance. I would like to give advice about how to implement it at school level. Can we give feedback on how to better communicate that guidance.
* **Potential items for DLAC discussion**
  + Member statement: Frame within new CMMR charge.
  + Member question: What would DESE like help with?
    - 2nd bullet from CMMR’s charter. How online tools can support in-person learning.
  + Member request: MCAS results for CMVS and SDVS provided to DLAC before next meeting.
  + Member question: Does this group ever discuss virtual reality?
  + Member statement: open to that topic, also opens up an equity issue. Some districts will be able to support AI or VR learning and some will not have those resources.
  + Member statement: we are working with groups of migrant families, give images/virtual reality experiences to migrant families to orient them to their new community. Tools that turn Zoom meetings into VR meetings. Potential for new families to use this new tech first instead of last.
  + Member statement: Cost for AI trained staff and to purchase the tech. goal is equitable access to new tech.
  + Member statement: we are preparing our K students for a workforce for 2046. Have to prepare them with knowledge, skills, and competencies for the future.
  + Member statement: Felix asking for more funding to accomplish their goal than typical CMVS. I don’t know about where funding comes from. Does it follow the student? What happens when the tuition outpaces local rate? What about students who are working with students enrolled in CMVS, do they also offer those students in person opportunities? Member question: in what ways do districts and CMVS work together to support CMVS students with in-person activities?
  + Member statement: College and career readiness, how prepared with technology and readiness for the workforce. How prepared for their future?
  + Member statement: would it be helpful to shine lights on ways that digital learning helps students: AR/VR, AI, relationships between school models, social media. People are siloed, highlight something excellent and innovative being done at a district and school.
* **DLAC 2023-24 Annual Report**
  + **DESE:** Thanks to DLAC members for reviewing the annual report. You provided valuable feedback. As soon as it is final, it will be sent to you.
* **2024-25 Meeting Schedule** 
  + Wednesday, September 25th
  + Wednesday, December 4th
  + Wednesday, February 5th
  + Wednesday, May 7th
* Any interest in meeting in person? 2-3 members expressed interest.
* Could have a centrally located meeting as needed. Can DESE staff look into any central meeting locations?
* Could we have a blending meeting.
* Would be difficult for some members to attend an in-person meeting.
* **Adjourn**
* **Motion to adjourn – Daniel**
* **Second – Jared**
* **Roll Call:**
* Daniel Downs (chair) - yes
* Sarah Haavind - aye
* Cindy Yetman - aye
* Jared Perrine - yes
* Bill Silver – yes
* Elizabeth Tripathi -yes
* Scott Morrison - yes
* Stacy Young - aye

1. *The 2013 virtual schools legislation (*[*Chapter 379 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Establishing Commonwealth Virtual Schools*](http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2012/Chapter379)*) created a Digital Learning Advisory Council to advise the Board and the Commissioner on:*

   * *The development of policies guiding virtual schools, supplemental online courses, education technology, and other matters related to virtual education.*
   * *The identification of best practices to encourage online education to complement classroom instruction in district schools.*
   * *The assessment of the appropriateness of the fee that the Department may retain for the administration of the virtual school program.*

   [↑](#footnote-ref-2)