

# HB 510 -- VIRTUAL INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Hill

This bill defines and distinguishes between "Asynchronous", "synchronous", "two-way interactive video" and "virtual" instruction" and requires districts to implement a "distance learning plan" policy that must meet the standards for virtual programs of instruction as outlined in Section 162.1250 RSMo. Beginning in any school year after July 2021 all virtual instructional programs must also be approved as a Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP) as outlined in Section 161.670.

The bill requires public school districts to adopt policies regarding virtual instructional courses. Policies adopted must follow specified guidelines outlined in the bill, which include expansion of course offerings and access to instructional resources, emergency use and home-based educational guidance.

When districts adopt a distance learning plan they must forward a copy to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and all plans should take key considerations into account.

Considerations include:

- (1) Participation for all students with accessibility to Internet connectivity required to be provided by the district at no charge;
- (2) Performance standards for all virtual education is consistent with state academic standards and equitably equivalent to other virtual instruction; and
- (3) Student and staff expectations including attendance measures, course completion, and extra curricular participation.

The bill requires that districts develop policies for distance learning plans with a community stakeholders work group, composed of members as outlined in the bill.

The bill requires a certified staff to be appointed to serve as building-level contacts to function as liaisons for online teachers and students.

All teachers of two-way interactive video instruction shall be provided in-service training as outlined in the bill.

Student data and privacy standards are outlined in the bill and must be addressed by a local school policy.

The bill requires schools sharing courses by means of two-way interactive video instruction to address issues that include costs, schedules, student behavior, teacher evaluation, and other issues as outlined in the bill.