This document contains model policy for the establishment of a Learn Everywhere Act.

SUMMARY

The Learn Everywhere Act provides greater flexibility for students to earn credits towards high school graduation requirements through approved learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Model Policy

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this bill allows a state to establish a state-funded program for students enrolled in middle and high school to earn course credit towards high school graduation for learning experiences outside of the classroom, through expanded learning opportunities with approved sponsoring entities in order to improve student achievement, enhance skill development and expand opportunities to individualize learning.

Section 2: Definitions

- "Administrator" means the entity that the state identifies to manage the program, which could be any of the following: a state board of education, a state education agency, districts and charter school boards or another body appointed by the state.
- "State" shall mean the State Board of Education or State Department of Education
- "Expanded learning opportunity'" shall mean learning experiences outside of the classroom that provides a sequence of instruction that meets reasonably equivalent requirements or competencies of a subject or subjects which result in the granting of a credit leading to high school graduation.
- "Superintendent" shall mean the State Superintendent of Education.
- "Sponsoring entity" shall mean a business, for-profit organization, non-profit organization, community organization, online education providers, postsecondary education institutions or trade association to provide educational opportunities for students.

Section 3: Duties of the State and Administrator

The State shall:

- o Promulgate any necessary rules or regulations to prescribe the conditions and procedures to be used by the administrator to develop program guidelines, including the process of awarding credits.
- o Establish the number of expanded learning opportunity credits students can earn towards high school graduation requirements.
- o Identify program evaluation metrics required to be reported by the administrator.

The Administrator shall:

- o Oversee the Learn Everywhere program.
- o Establish criteria for the program in accordance with board rules, including but not limited to:
- o Developing an application and approval process for sponsoring entities.
- o Establishing an audit process for sponsoring entities.
- o Publishing a yearly report with program updates and evaluation metrics outlined by the board.
- o Establishing a communication plan that ensures families are aware of approved sponsoring entities and their available courses.

Section 4: Program Application for Sponsoring Entities

At a minimum the application will require that the sponsoring entity identifies:

- The course title and description
- How the learning experience will meet course content standards/competencies as determined by the state
- How students will demonstrate mastery and how they will be evaluated
- How the offerings will be made accessible to all qualifying students, including but not limited to English language learners and students with disabilities
- How the sponsoring entity will define and report evaluation data, including but not limited to student impact and student outcomes.
- Approval of a sponsoring entity will be valid for three years if the sponsoring entity continues to meet yearly audit and reporting requirements.

Section 5: State Funding

Students in grades 7-12 attending public schools within the state will be eligible for a set amount of funds, to use towards approved expanded learning opportunities.

Section 6: Reporting Requirements

The administrator will determine reporting requirements by sponsoring entities. At a minimum, sponsoring entities shall report annually:

- Participation data
- Career ready and content standards/and or competencies met
- Number of credits awarded
- Additional outcomes deemed appropriate by the administrator