

MSOC LEA Member Profile

Part II: Synopsis of MSOC Participation

Background:

- As a first year participant in MSOC during SY 2004-05, Carroll County is in the beginning stages of implementing student online courses, including adopting procedures and beginning to review online courses for students.
- Carroll County currently has one student enrolled in an online geometry course; the student is an 8th grader who moved into the district from another county and who had already completed algebra but needed geometry since it wasn't required or offered in the student's former school.
- Plans are to expand course offering for Summer, 2005 and the 2005-2006 school year, since the course approval process did not go through in time for earlier implementation. Proposed course offerings will be geared to SAT Prep and AP courses as identified areas of need; in particular AP art history, AP US history, and AP computer science that are not offered across the county high schools since enrollments are too low in some schools to warrant a classroom-based offering.

Benefits and Impact:

- Student has been enrolled and has successfully completed first part of online geometry- is enrolled in second half of course right now
- County is look at online learning to fill needs for students and professionals
- Additional meetings have been scheduled to look at the issue

Implementation Issues:

- Delay in the approval processes for Policies and Procedures document
- Proposed budget position for educational technology for FY06 has not been finalized
- Lack of response from administration about furthering the online learning project

Lessons Learned:

- Communication with all stakeholders is extremely important
- Administrators need background knowledge/education with online learning before making informed decisions
- Filling a student need (geometry) gave a "jump start" to moving forward with online learning. Without the immediate student need the issue may have been further delayed

Next Steps:

- Adoption of Policies and Procedures document for student online courses
- Enrollment of mentor teachers and online teachers in the MSOC mentor course and MSDE online teaching and facilitation course
- Determining enrollments for Summer, 2005 and 2005-2006 school year in the identified areas