

MSOC LEA District Profile Form

Part II: Synopsis of MSOC Participation

Background:

- MSOC member since 2002; moving forward cautiously to make sure that online course curricula are aligned with county curricula and state standards

Benefits and Impact:

- Sharing ideas with other districts on implementing online courses.
- In particular, being able to talk about models that work for others, sharing experiences across the state, sharing labor for developing courses such as *SAT Prep* development, and sharing professional development opportunities such as teacher training.

Implementation Issues:

- Able to offer these courses only because of grant money; long-term sustainability is the biggest concern
- Course availability – Courses need to align with MCPS curriculum; currently available courses don't necessarily do so
- Course Alignment Review – Currently no process in place to allow MCPS curriculum teams to review courses for alignment

Lessons Learned:

- More upfront sharing among districts leads to a more streamlined process of course development and review, and a higher likelihood of success in being able to offer MCPS students high quality online learning opportunities
- Need to work together across districts from the beginning of the development process.
- Alignment of online courses with county as well as state curriculum is a necessity and will result in greater acceptance of online courses as a rigorous alternative to classroom instruction

Next Steps:

- MCPS plans to evaluate Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) courses on a case-by-case basis, with a particular interest in Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Offer SAT Prep and Health to relatively large numbers of students in Summer 2005