

MSOC LEA District Profile Form – Fact Sheet

Basic Info., Procedures and Guidelines				
<u>School System</u>	<u>MSOC Member Since:</u>	<u>Status of Procedures and Guidelines for Online Learning:</u>	<u>Actual or Planned Approval Date</u>	<u>MOU @ MSDE?</u>
Wicomico County	2004*	Not applicable	N/A	No
Detailed Plans on Procedures and Guidelines for Current Year:				
Other Comments:		*Wicomico CPS joined MSOC in Fall 2004 but then withdrew in December 2004 – see narrative for details.		

Online Course Needs: Strategies and Results	
Planned and Actual Strategies for Conducting Course Needs Surveys, Current Year:	None identified
Strategies for Conducting Course Needs Surveys, Past Years:	N/A
Courses Currently Needed But Not Currently Offered:	None identified

Online Courses Offered in Current Year:				
<u>Course Type</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Course Period</u>	<u>Enrollments</u>	<u>Course Sharing?</u>
MVLO	none			
<i>Grant-Supported</i>				
Other				
Online Courses Offered in Past Years:				
<u>Course Type</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Course Period</u>	<u>Enrollments</u>	<u>Course Sharing?</u>
MVLO	N/A			
<i>Grant-Supported</i>				
Other				

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Online Course Review, Development, and Modification:			
	<u>MSDE, Student Courses</u>	<u>MSDE, Professional Development Courses</u>	<u>Local (LEA), Student Courses</u>
Planned or Actual Review Efforts, Current Year	None	None	None
Planned or Actual Development or Modification Efforts, Current Year	None	None	None
Review Efforts, Past Years	N/A	N/A	N/A
Development or Modification Efforts, Past Years	N/A	N/A	N/A

Professional Development Activities:		
<u>Planned and Actual Professional Development Activities, Current Year:</u>	<u># Trained</u>	<u>Details, Impact</u>
Mentor Training (MVLO/MSOC Mentor Course)		
Mentor Training (LEA-sponsored course or other mentor training)		
'How to Teach Online' Training (MVLO/MSOC How to Teach Online course)		
'How to Teach Online' Training (LEA-sponsored course or other training source)		
Student Orientation (MSOC-developed Online Awareness module)		
Student Orientation (LEA or other activity related to developing student awareness of OL opportunities)		
Dissemination Activities: Conference Attendance or Presentation		
Dissemination Activities: Publications or Other		
Other Professional Development Activities:		
None		
Notable Professional Development Activities, Past Years:		Details, Impact
N/A		

Services to Non-Publics:	
Resources or Services Provided	None
Impact of Services Provided	None

Wicomico County Public Schools: Not Yet Ready for Online Learning

Wicomico County Public Schools is involved with most, if not all, of the consortia funded by MSDE grant initiatives through WCPS's Office of Instructional Technology (OIT). Hearing about the MSOC project through participation in other consortial initiatives, OIT staff believed that WCPS also needed to be a part of the MSOC project. The fact that WCPS had students taking online SAT Prep courses last year (SY 2003-04) also factored into the decision; WCPS also wanted to participate in MSOC decision making processes and see what other counties were going through as they progressed in this direction.

However, in part because of being involved with many other projects, the OIT staff felt that they were at the limit of what they could take on as new projects; they also did not feel qualified to make decisions about which online courses should be offered. So OIT staff went to key administrators to request that a curriculum person be assigned to work with us on this particular grant. The administrators felt that the county was not yet in need of the online courses which the state is developing and that WCPS's current infrastructure was not quite ready for offering online courses. The administrators were also reluctant to devote a staff person to the project because "plates are too full" with other competing priorities. It is also possible that WCPS's lack of success with Peterson's SAT Prep courses last year may have had a bearing on this, but this is unclear.

As a result, administrators were unwilling to assign the additional staff help necessary to participate in the project.. Without support from the top, OIT felt that it made no sense to continue with grant, hence WCPS's withdrawal in December 2004.

The OIT staff continues to feel that MSOC is an extremely valuable project and is disheartened that WicCPS is not participating and probably not be able to do so for another year, more likely two years. Although the administration is very supportive of technology, MSOC project participation will need to wait until WCPS is ready to devote personnel to online learning.

Despite having only participated in the MSOC project for a brief period of time, WCPS did report some benefits from their participation. The biggest benefit was being able to hear about other counties' experiences and learn from them, including lessons learned and guidance from those who already have gone through where WCPS will need to go in order to implement online learning in their district.