

iNACOL Article

1. Who is iNacol and what do the letters stand for?

- iNACOL is an international nonprofit transforming education to student-centered learning.
- International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL)

2. When was iNacol formed and why?

- The group was created in 2003 and NACOL was formed to advance the work of teachers, administrators and public policymakers in the field of online learning.

3. What is the mission of this organization?

- Their mission is to catalyze the transformation of K-12 education policy and practice to advance powerful, personalized, learner-centered experiences through competency-based, blended and online learning.

4. What is competency-based learning?

- Competency education builds upon standards reforms, offering a new value proposition for our education system. Competency education is described as simply flexibility in awarding credit or defined as an alternative to the Carnegie unit.

Distance Education Terminology

Asynchronous Learning

- Communication between two or more people over the internet, including sites such as email, blogs, discussion boards and more.

Blended Learning (also used synonymously with the term "Hybrid Learning")

- This is when a student partakes in learning at a school and online. They must learn partially in each setting.

Brick and Mortar Schools

- This term relates to a strictly traditional school with no online learning programs.

Course Management System (CMS) ((also used synonymously with Learning Management System (LMS))

- This is where online courses are offered and they include many tools and resources to help make the course run smoothly and easy to use.

Distance Education

- This is where the students are participants are separated from each other but they are still all partaking in the same activity or lesson.

Face-to-Face

- This is when two or more people meet in person to communicate.

Online Learning

- This is where the lessons are presented strictly online, this is usually used with other methods of teaching like e-learning and virtual learning.

Synchronous Learning

- This is an online learning term where all of the students and participants learn the material at the same time and place.

Handbook of K-12 Online Learning

Supplemental Online Classes

- These are courses that are offered online other than classes that are offered at college or universities. They are considered part time classes because students could take however many they need. In the beginning they weren't sure if it was going to work, however it was a huge success. From these classes, virtual schools began to form because of how many students were utilizing the program. It's interesting because this is where the online schools were born.

Full-time Online School

- Full time schools offer students the opportunity to actually go to school online. They have to follow all of the standards that regular schools do. The children will earn real diplomas and the online schools follow closely with the No Child Left Behind program. Not only are their online schools, there are also online universities. A student can earn a diploma and degree without having to go to an actual school a day in there life.

District-led Programs

- District led programs are made through the school district for the betterment of their students. These programs include in class and online teaching methods. They exist because they want to help each student in every way they can. These programs are flexible and individualized for students so they get the best they can out of their learning. These kind of classrooms have grown over time and seem to be a huge success throughout many school districts all across america.

Blended learning and fully blended schools

- The term blended learning means mixing in school learning environments with online learning. The teachers all work together to complete the curriculum and make sure all of the lessons are together. These exist so the students can be flexible with their schedules and learn the way they want to. I think this is a wonderful program and so many schools are adopting it. The students must learn in each environment for the program to run smoothly.

Online course requirements

- I think this is an interesting topic because some schools make taking an online class a requirement to graduate. As of right now, four states have that requirement. I don't know if a agree with it because not all of the students have access to laptops or computers and I don't think online classes have taken over that much that it should be required. There are two more states in the process of making online courses a requirement. Lastly, other states have passed rules saying that they are recommended but not required.

Student achievement

- Everybody asks the same question about implementing technology into the classroom. Will it even work? There has been hundreds of studies and most of them are positive. Students are more excited when they have technology incorporated into the lesson and overall focus more. Even though technology has a pretty good outlook, you still have to find the right online courses because some don't have to follow the standards, that's the only downfall. Overall, students are working well with the technology and it's going to be interesting to see where this goes.

Findings

- There was a findings table in the chapter which was interesting to read because it included research from all over. Most of the research was positive but some of the instructors admitted that they weren't truly prepared. However, they were saying that more kids were able to graduate because of the online courses. Kids who were expelled or dropped out can now finish school and to get their life back together, and as a future teacher I think every student deserves a second chance.

Funding

- There are many different ways that the online programs could be funded. They have funding from schools, which I think would be for the blended schools because they work together. They have attendance funding so the more kids who attend, the more money they get. There are many more but I like the performance based funding because the online schools have to be doing well in order to keep their funding. All of the funding methods are effective and I like how they all look at the positives to make sure they could keep the schools going.

Conclusion

- The overlook on the whole chapter is a pretty positive one. Blended schools are rapidly growing and they are the most common online classroom. Everything is getting better with time and the possibilities are endless for these kind of programs. So many children now have the opportunity to earn that diploma if they failed the first time and the programs are closely related to all of the standards and the No Child Left Behind corporation.

Infographic

Written

- There were actually lessons that were sent by mail in 1782. I'm assuming that the completed work would have to be sent back in the mail to the teacher. This is really interesting because most schools were segregated during this time so this gave to opportunity for anyone to learn.

Radio

- In the early 1900s schools were actually broadcasting lessons over the radio. Penn State was the first university to broadcast, and shortly after this happened, over 200 schools were granted their broadcasting license. In the early 1960s, there was the first state wide telephone based education that was run by the University of Wisconsin.

Television

- By the late 1960s, schools were switching over to television based learning. In the year 1968, Stanford University founded the Stanford Instructional Television Network for their part time engineering students. Shortly after this, the internet was created and articles were writing about computer based education.

Online

- From the late 1970s to the 1990s, education grew extremely fast. There was now educational computer programs for adults and the first Ph.D. online program. This is incredible because in just a few short years after these programs were established, the first fully online class was created.

Modern

- Lastly from the late 1990s to now, educational programs have soared in the positive direction. There are now so many programs, websites and resources to help everybody succeed. Today, 98% of colleges offer online classes and this is such good news for the people who can't leave home or don't have the time to go to a real school. It's truly incredible how much education has changed over the past years.