



## WDLC by the Numbers (2015-17)

- Serving 200+ school districts (nearly 300 schools) as part of WDLC
- 25,000+ annual enrollments
- 2,700+ active courses in the system
- 4,592 active sections in the system
- 300+ active teachers with enrollments at any given time
- 10,000+ students served annually
- 250+ partner support staff system users (FTE are almost all part-time, with the exception of roughly 40-50)
- 14 Curriculum Sources
- Reduced Per Enrollment Costs 10% across the board
- Reduced digital content licensing fees by 100% blended learning (3 years)
- Reduced digital content licensing fees by 30% for online learning



## Instructional and Administrative Software

- Turnitin.com (plagiarism/academic integrity tool)
- Blackboard Collaborate (web conferencing)
- Tutor.com (24/7 student tutor service)
- Shmoop (Free AP Exam Courses, ASPIRE and ACT Prep Courses for WDLC schools)
- Qualtrics (data analytics and survey tool)
- NROC – EdReady (college and career readiness resource for students and schools)
- Blended Learning Pilots (1,500+ enrollments)
- Professional Educator Online Learning Platform



## Administrative Costs

- Fixed administrative operational costs to meet legislative Wisconsin Web Academy

# WISCONSIN DIGITAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

## Executive Summary

The **Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative (WDLC)** is a unique statewide partnership that gives every student in any school district access to online courses to supplement campus schedules. It also provides digital learning resources for teachers to use in their classrooms. Access to online courses, technology, and resources are available to districts through the WDLC regardless of size or geography. A new report, *Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative: A Review of Programs and Partners*, examines the impact of the WDLC on online learning in the state, profiles many of the partner districts, and provides descriptions of the digital learning pathways available to Wisconsin schools through this statewide option. What follows is a brief summary of WDLC and what you will find in the report.

The objective of the Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative is to “Provide equitable access to high-quality online and blended learning resources throughout Wisconsin.”

The WDLC consists of three collaborating organizations. The Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) provides supplemental online courses to a large majority (200+) of the school districts across Wisconsin. The Wisconsin eSchool Network (WEN) is a consortium of 28 district partners that provides access to online courses, technology, operational support, digital learning professional development, and other services to its members. Together, WEN and WVS form the foundation of the Collaborative. The third organization, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), provides quality assurance and helps raise awareness of WDLC. It also provides some fiscal support through the segregated universal service fund administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

In addition to the WDLC representing the digital learning interests of all districts, it also leverages shared knowledge and best practices to reduce costs. It offers a wide variety of resources, services, and benefits that districts need in order to offer online and blended learning options to students.

## Funding

- As part of Teach 2.0; Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Technology; segregated universal service fund via intergovernmental agency agreement with CESA 9.
- This funding is allocated for state support of a digital learning collaborative, established for the statewide web academy and for delivery of digital content and collaborative instruction. This mirrors the Spring of 2014 Assembly Speaker’s Task Force on Rural Schools (TEACH 2.0) recommendations.

- 30% reduced licensing fees
- No blended fee digital content for 3 years
- Access to more than 400 full online courses (complete local control) from 8 vendors
- Ability to build local content
- Ability to edit content per local adoption policies
- Virtual School Leadership Alliance Collaboration (Georgia Virtual School, Idaho Digital Learning Academy)

 **Support and  
Maintenance**

- Collaboration with DPI on further digital learning as part of numerous committees and work groups
- LTE Support
- UW Gaming Collaboration
- Platform Maintenance Fees (Blended Learning)
- Provide training for learning management and registration system updates
- iNACOL Membership and Participation
- Virtual School Leadership Alliance Membership Participation
- No cost Blended Learning Summit: Held February 2016 for all WDLC Partnering Teams, hosted by the WDLC (130 participants representing school district teams), Guest Speaker/Facilitator: Heather Staker
- No cost professional learning events for Wisconsin schools: Slate Preconference 2016, Certifying WI Educators 2017, 6 follow up PD days over 2 years (2017-18)
- No cost online courses for educators and administrators: Educational Leadership in the 21st Century. Designing Digital Learning, and Planning and Implementing Your Digital Learning Initiatives

 **Systems  
Integration**

- Software Development (Data Migration Projects)
- Curriculum Integration Fees
- WDLC Planning & Administering Activities for School Districts (no cost)
- Update learning management system software with version releases
- Add new school district staff to authentication credentials
- IMS Global Standard Adoption

## Executive Summary

### WDLC Pathways to Digital Learning

Through the WDLC partnership, WEN and WVS have created three pathways to cover the broad range of digital learning needs regardless of the size of the school district or its stage of digital learning deployment.

 **Supplemental Pathway**

The Supplemental Pathway appeals to districts that want to offer online courses to its students, but may not have the infrastructure or experience to accomplish that goal alone. The Supplemental Pathway offers nearly unlimited access to online courses and support through WVS without the need for formal membership in WEN and without the need to build online learning capacity locally. It is a pay-as-you-go option to add online courses to existing middle and/or high school curriculum with no annual fees, contracts, or memberships. WVS is the primary provider of supplemental online courses for the WDLC, making state-supported online learning opportunities available to the 396 Wisconsin school districts that are not WEN partner districts. It is a straightforward way to add quality online courses to a district's existing grade 6–12 curriculum.

 **Affiliate Pathway**

The Affiliate Pathway is appropriate for districts ready to take on more control and ownership of their online learning program as they become members in the WEN consortium. Affiliate Partner districts have access to WEN's online course catalog, licensed teachers, technology tools, student orientation courses, and professional learning while benefiting from lower cost, scalable enrollment fees. The Affiliate membership allows districts to retain a high degree of local control, using a combination of local instructors with online teachers from Network partners as needed. Most of WEN's current 14 Affiliate district members are small to medium-sized school districts, ranging from less than 1,000 students to nearly 7,000 students, and most are in the process of developing cohesive and comprehensive online learning plans.

 **Invested Pathway**

The Invested Pathway is designed for members with a comprehensive plan for online and blended learning that includes an emphasis on local autonomy and use of local teachers and staff. Invested Partners make a significant one-time investment that provides the lowest operating expenses of any pathway and a voting seat on the WEN board of directors. Invested Partners are building scalable digital learning programs to support growing online enrollments, increased use of student devices on campus, and greater integration of digital content and instruction in the classroom. Currently, there are 14 Invested Partners that have made significant initial investments in human capital and in financial resources to purchase online courses, license and develop technology infrastructure and build processes that are the foundation of the consortium and the WDLC.

The Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative: A Review of Programs and Partners report provides more detail on the specifics of the WDLC partner pathways and profiles of each of the 14 Invested Partners. It provides data on course enrollments, the number of students taking online courses, course enrollments by grade level and subject area, and satisfaction data from most WDLC partners.

The WDLC model of providing online and blended learning courses through a collaboration of partner organizations guided by school districts is unusual compared to most other digital learning models, particularly statewide. This model has proven to be sustainable and flexible, allowing districts to invest in digital learning at different levels. The full report is available at [http://www.wisconsineschool.org/media/76096/wdlc\\_partnerprofiles.pdf](http://www.wisconsineschool.org/media/76096/wdlc_partnerprofiles.pdf).

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