



Minnesota Digital Curriculum Referral Catalog

Fiscal Year 2013

Report

To the

Legislature

As required by

Minnesota Statutes,

124D.095 273 Sec. 9

COMMISSIONER:

Digital Catalog

Brenda Cassellius, Ed. D.

June 2013

FY 2013

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Report to the Legislature

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124D.095 273 Sec. 9

**Upon request, this report can be made
available in alternative formats.**

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to prepare this report was approximately \$700. Most of these costs involved staff time in analyzing data from surveys and preparing the written report. Incidental costs include paper, copying, and other office supplies.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2011, section 3.197, which requires that at the beginning of a report to the Legislature, the cost of preparing the report must be provided.

Purpose of the Report

The Online Learning Advisory Council, with the support of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Learning Council (MnLC), was charged in Subdivision 10, (7) (b) (1) to “oversee the development and maintenance of a catalog of publicly available digital learning content currently aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards to include; (i) indexing of Minnesota academic standards with which curriculum is aligned; (ii) a method for student and teacher to provide evaluative feedback, and (iii) a plan for ongoing maintenance; and (2) recommend methods for including student performance data on the digital learning content within the catalog”. The 2013 Minnesota Digital Curriculum Referral Catalog report to the Legislature, will report on the activities and deliverables.

Activities and Deliverables Digital Catalog Project

Planning and development of the digital catalog was undertaken by the Online Advisory Council, the MnLC, and MDE, as required by statute (124D.095.-The digital catalog’s continued implementation will be supported by an ongoing appropriation). Provisionally named the Minnesota Digital Curriculum Referral Catalog (MDCRC), it is designed as a searchable index of digital Open Education Resources (OER) for instructional purposes that are available and aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards. The catalog may be accessed online on June 30, 2013. An account of the activities and deliverables is provided below:

Timeline

Jun 2012	MDE staff met with Online Learning Council Chair and MnLC Executive Director.
Jul 2012	MDE signed statewide agreement to participate in Achieve’s OER Institute, the goal of which is to help states provide educators at all levels access to quality, standards-aligned OER.
Jan 2013	MDE contracted work to use the Right Now Technologies Customer Portal to do the following: (1) deliver a searchable referral catalog of digital media resources with functionality to intake resources, 3) manage the digital catalog prototype; (3) promote the catalog in the MnLC mailings; (4) provide support to users; and (5) provide analytic reports using sponsor input.
Feb 2013	A needs assessment for determining existing resources and priorities for course creation was developed.
Mar 2013	The needs assessment was sent out to Minnesota public education stakeholders.
Apr 2013	The results of the needs assessment were reviewed. MDE contracted with subject matter experts and they collected OER resources aligned to Minnesota curriculum standards.
May 2013	A plan was developed for seeding the catalog with OER. Stakeholders worked to inventory available OER aligned to the results of the needs assessment.
Jun 2013	A prototype catalog of information on existing resources was developed. Subject matter experts were contracted to search for OER, develop

annotated lists of OER content, and submit content to the prototype catalog.

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| Jul 2013 | Content will be submitted to the prototype catalog and reviewed. Initial planning for growth and quality assurance will continue to support a curated collection that goes beyond a subjective star-based rating by MDCRC user members. |
| Aug 2013 | MDE will collaborate with the OER Commons organization to determine how to integrate their core alignment and OER evaluation tools into Minnesota's online catalog collection. |
| Fall 2013 | The working prototype will be presented to leadership and content organizations, e.g., MSBA/MDE Supt. Conference (Aug), MASA Conference (Oct), AMSD (Oct), MASA/CLM Conference (Nov), MREA Conference (Nov). |

Ongoing Work and Maintenance

Ongoing work in year two will include making the MDCRC prototype site fully operational and further developing its features and functionality. The prototype MDCRC site is hosted by the MnLC and includes features that will permit member users to submit OER digital content as well as rate its content. Educators in Minnesota will be invited to view and use existing resources. Members and users of the resources will assist MDE in evaluating the quality of the resources submitted to the collection. Members who use or review a resource may leave comments and will be permitted to rate a resource and asked to provide further information on its adoption by using a star-based feedback system.

As of June 2013, the prototype catalog has been seeded with an estimated 300 digital OER. When fully operational, educators will be able to use the cataloged content to assemble comprehensive OER course materials that if used in their entirety, could meet the Minnesota standards that are typically addressed by courses of that type. OER collected in the MDCRC include the following:

- Packaged modules that could be adopted to supplement or substitute for a traditional textbook package (printable items, test bank, lesson plans, supplements, multi-media learning activities)
- The ability for real-time data collection and feedback between student and teacher
- Dynamic content that can be modified and added to over time
- Free and openly licensed resources under Creative Commons (copyright free)

[View the MDCRC prototype inventory as of June 30, 2013.](#)

Guiding Vision to Support the Growth of a Curated Collection

Building a community of users and submitters of content to the digital catalog will help expand the capacity of Minnesota schools to provide equitable, high quality curriculum for all students in the most cost-effective manner. The resources in the catalog will be used in teaching and learning and licensed in such a way that they are free and can be used, re-used, re-mixed and otherwise customized to meet specific needs.

As part of its participation in the OER Institute sponsored by Achieve, and feedback from stakeholders, MDE's OER team developed the following vision:

By 2015 Minnesota schools will have access to and use a system of curated digital Open Educational Resources (OER) aligned to the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in grades 6-12 in Mathematics and English Language Arts. This will lay the foundation for continuing development of a complete range of open digital content in all subject areas and grade levels in our state.

MDE will continue to support the work of the Online and Digital Learning Advisory Council (formerly the Online Learning Advisory Council), and the MnLC in order to achieve this vision.