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# Policy Makers

- NCREL's New Research Synthesis on Online Learning:
  - Student Academic Performance (p47)
  - Characteristics of Successful Online Students (p49)
  - Qualities of Effective Online Learners (p51)
  - Professional Development for Effective Online Teaching and Learning (p52)
  - Challenges of Online Learning (p54)
  - Online Learning, School Change and Educational Reform (p56 )
  - Recommendations & Barriers
    - Pages 59-69
  - Further Research Questions
    - Pages 68-69



# Sharing Research to Inform Policy



# What Policy Makers Need to Know

## ■ #1 Online Learning Expands Options

- “The first impetus to the growth of K-12 distance education was an interest in expanding educational options and providing equal opportunities for all learners.” (p.7)

## ■ #2 Online Learning Is Rapidly Growing

- “Recent Surveys show that K-12 online learning is a rapidly growing phenomenon.” (p.4)
  - Clark: 40,000-50,000 enrollments in 2000-2001
  - Eduventures: 300,000 K-12 enrollments online 2002-3
  - NCES: 328,000 enrollments in distance ed 2002-3



# Online Learning Works

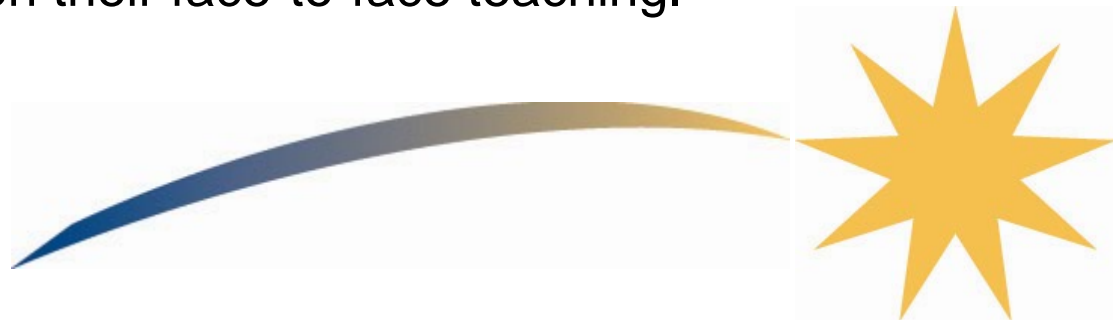
## ■ #3 Is Effective: “Equal or Better”

- “One conclusion seems clear: On average, students seem to perform equally well or better academically in online learning.” (p. 17)

## ■ #4 Improves Teaching

- Teachers who teach online reported positive improvements in face-to-face, too.
- “Of those who reported teaching face-to-face while teaching online or subsequently, three in four reported a positive impact on their face-to-face teaching.”

(p. 25)



# NCREL Synthesis – National Education Technology Plan

- Goals related to E-Learning (pages 8-9)
  - Provide every student access to e-learning
  - Enable every teacher to participate in e-learning training
  - Encourage the use of e-learning options to meet NCLB requirements (HQT, SES, choice)
  - Explore creative ways to fund e-learning
  - Develop quality measures and accreditation standards for e-learning that require those required for course credit
- [www.NationalEdTechPlan.org](http://www.NationalEdTechPlan.org)



# North American Council for Online Learning

To conclude:

- NCREL's Synthesis provides policy makers with a research-based view of online learning and confidence that "Online Learning Is Effective: It Works."
  - Expands Options
  - Growing Rapidly
  - Equal or Better
  - Improves Teaching
- Links:
  - [www.NCREL.org](http://www.NCREL.org)
  - [www.NACOL.org](http://www.NACOL.org)
  - [www.NationalEdTechPlan.org](http://www.NationalEdTechPlan.org)

