

# Iowa Distance Education Adult Literacy

## A community college adult education initiative

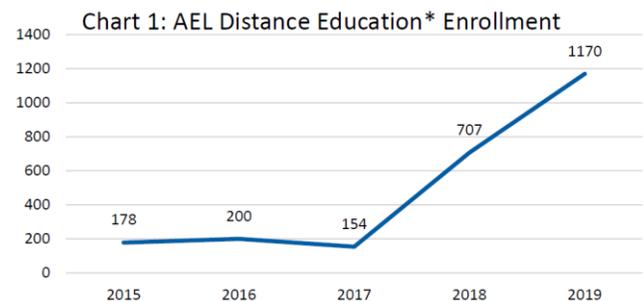


## Iowa Distance Education Adult Literacy (IDEAL)

The vision of the IDEAL project is to support 100% distance master courses that contain high quality, teacher led, engaging and adaptable instruction to increase distance education access to all levels of adult learners in Iowa so they may achieve living-wage employment and gain the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to acquire a high school credential, employment or postsecondary education and training.

In the past two years adult learners have dramatically increased participation in asynchronous online learning platforms, as shown in the chart here.

In response to Iowa's needs, the Iowa Association of Community College Presidents (IACCP) commissioned a task force consisting of community college leaders from around the state to research and explore expanding online learning for AEL in Iowa.



## Distance Education System

The task force worked with a team of subject matter experts as well as a software development company with expertise in online teaching and learning to come up with the following recommendations:

### ⇒ A single LMS for all providers

- A shared Canvas platform will be accessible statewide

### ⇒ A series of master online courses designed to align with AEL standards

- Evidence- and project-based practices will be available in Math; Reading/Writing; Social Studies; Science and Career Essentials

### ⇒ In-demand master courses to expand instruction for workforce training and transition to employment

- Workplace courses where adult learners gain career readiness and interview skills

### ⇒ Continuous sequenced professional development for instructors

- Targeted training will address specific needs of adult learners and cultivate engagement in distance education classrooms

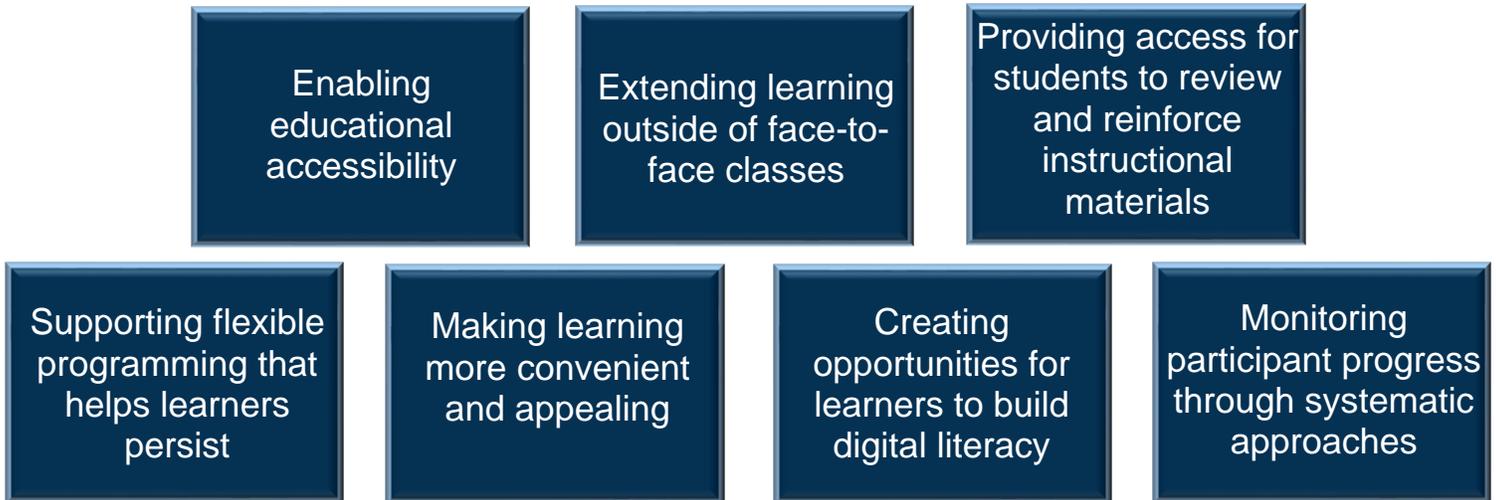
### ⇒ Increased access to services and technology devices will ensure equity and inclusion for participants served

- The Governor's 2020 Emergency Education Relief fund will provide adult learners with access to loaned educational technology

# Impact

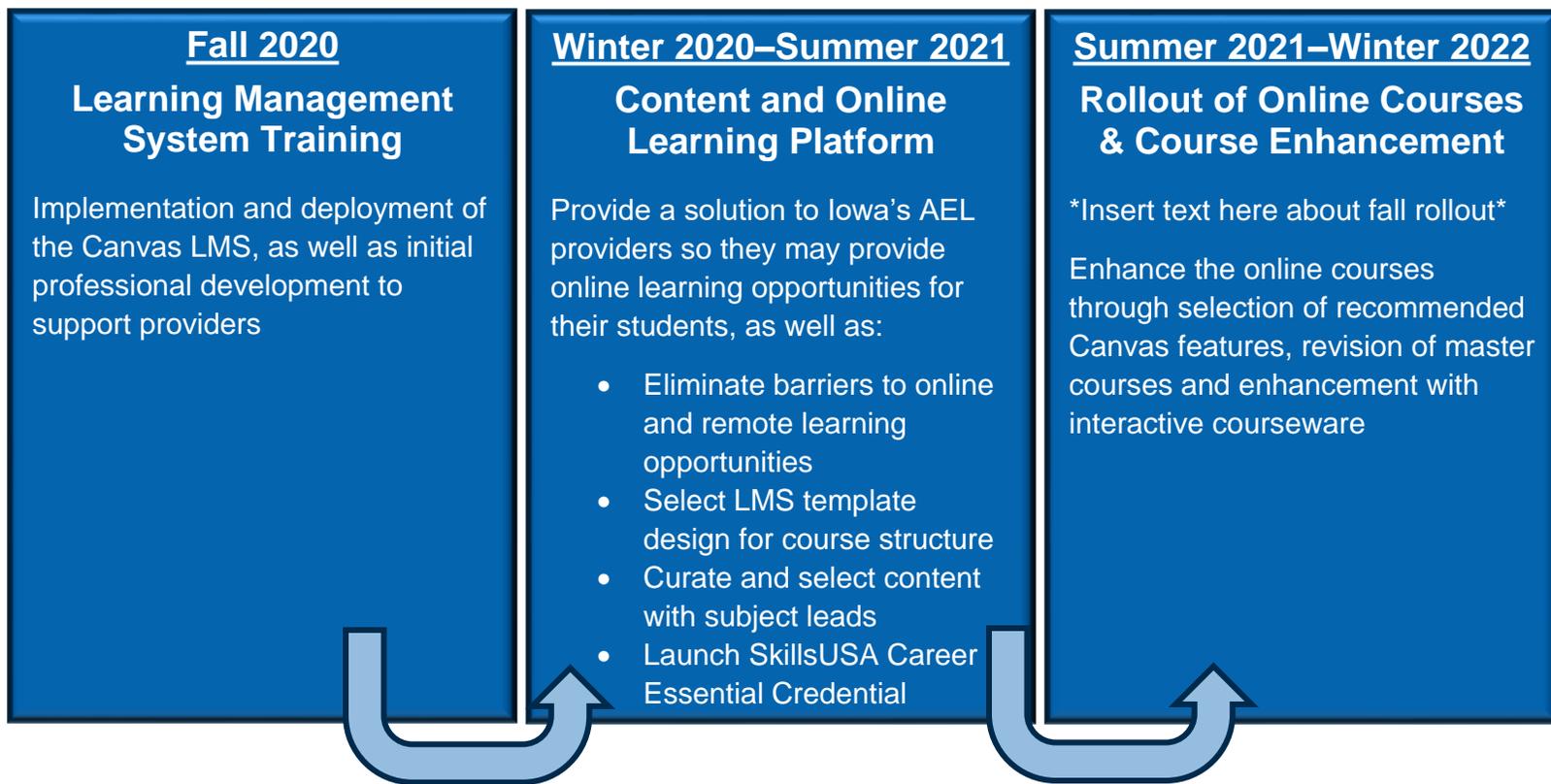
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Online learning reduces the number of weeks needed to make progress by increasing learner' time on learning tasks. The Iowa adult education online system positively impacts adult learners by:



# Timeline

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For any questions about this information or the task force, please contact Alex Harris ([alex.harris@iowa.gov](mailto:alex.harris@iowa.gov)) or Elizabeth Johnson ([elizabeth.johnson2@iowa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.johnson2@iowa.gov)).