

Adventist Distance Education K-12

Some Considerations and a Vision for Collaboration

Jenny* has just graduated from the 8th grade at her local Adventist church school. Not quite 15 years old and still socially immature, she has few options for continuing her education in an Adventist school since the nearest day academy is almost 100 miles away, and Jenny's parents are unwilling to send her to boarding school. Public school is a last resort, and it looks like that may be the only option.

Imagine their excitement when they hear about a union-sponsored plan that provides classes over the Internet, taught by denominationally certified instructors. Arrangements are made for Jenny to study at the local church school, where she feels comfortable and can associate with other Adventist young people. Also, a church school teacher will be available on site to supervise and assist her. Jenny will earn credit for her classes from the conference academy. She will frequently be invited to attend functions at the academy so that she can interact with her peers and ease the transition to academy.

This is only one way that distance education delivered via telecommunication fills a niche in the Adventist system. (See <http://www.nadtdec.org/distanceed.htm> for other programs.) Distance learning can meet specific needs with carefully designed courses and programs. However, as we construct the Adventist Virtual School, a number of issues must be addressed, including student support, teacher support, and course collaboration. Cost is also a consideration, since quality courseware is expensive to develop and deliver. How can Adventists develop educationally sound and high-quality courseware? Should Seventh-day Adventist educators spend the time or money required to develop and deliver distance education courses online when many Internet-based courses are readily available? These and more questions are addressed in this article. Please go to <http://www.avln.org/jae/> for the rest of the article. ✍

By Tim Kaldahl



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*The student is real. The name is not.

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