

Dear Mr. Corbett & Everett School District's OnlineHS,

Thank you for including me in a peer review of your OnlineHS program and courses.

For the past five years, I have worked as a private contractor teaching online with a for-profit company operating out of the Midwest. This company provides courses and instruction as part of another state's online learning initiative. During this time, I have had the opportunity to use a number of courses, learning management systems, and work with a variety of people in the virtual learning industry.

I will comment briefly on the five areas you requested.

Quality of course design

Clearly the courses designed by the Everett Public Schools OnlineHS program are superior to anything I have seen in five years and with three different, major curriculum providers. The courses are lively, engaging, and inviting. Too often, in a need to standardize courses for mass production, providers end-up with something that is too stale and not well-received by students. They get bored with material that is just a regular classroom in an electronic format.

I like that from the few courses I saw, they provided students with the opportunities to use the internet and choose how they would share their learning with the teacher and others.

Content

I read on your web site and in the flyer you sent me, that your program promises a “rich & rigorous learning experience” and you are correct. These are not easy classes. The fact that you have such a high success rate is a testament to your instructional team and the students in Everett.

Instruction

In the courses I previewed, it was obvious that your OnlineHS staff works hard and is committed to the Everett Public Schools student community. I saw many announcements—most daily, that were . Lots of sharing and engagement in the message boards—something that is really rare in other programs because it is so time-consuming. Research indicates that is so valuable as students see teachers working side-by-side with them. This really does address your program's “personalized & individualized” slogan.

Support Systems

Not visible. I cannot comment on how your courses and learning management system integrate with your school district's reporting or student information system.

Infrastructure

Other than your web site (which you mentioned was ‘under construction’) and your Blackboard Learning Management System, I do not know what is beyond these layers.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to review your courses & program. The experience has given me a lot of ‘food for thought’ as it makes me reflect on my own practices and beliefs about what students can accomplish online. I've also gained a few strategies that I will be able to employ immediately in my own online classes.

Continued Success to you and OnlineHS!

Yours in education,

[Redacted signature]

Name & Program affiliation
withheld by request