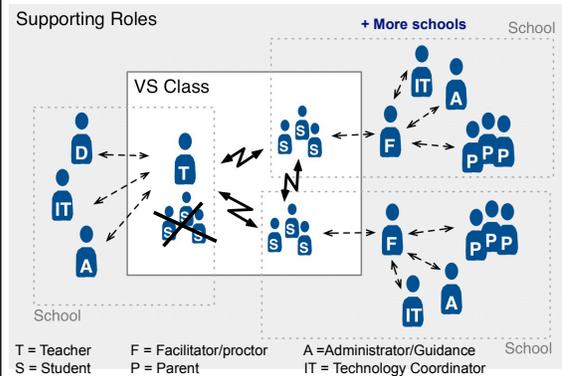


## Supporting K-12 Students Online: Local Schools, Virtual Schools & Teacher Education



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## Virtual School Environment



## Virtual School Teachers

- Virtual School Designer: Course Development
  - design instructional materials
  - works in team with teachers and a virtual school to construct the online course, etc.
- Virtual School Teacher: Pedagogy & Class Management
  - presents activities, manages pacing, rigor, etc.
  - interacts with students and their facilitators
  - undertakes assessment, grading, etc.
- Virtual School Site Facilitator: Mentoring & Advocating
  - local mentor and advocate for student(s)
  - proctors & records grades, etc.

Davis (2007)

## Facilitator/Mediating Teacher

- Technical – to provide maintenance and trouble-shooting for the computers
- Coach – to provide support (although not academic support) in gaining the independent learning and self-motivation skills that may be needed to succeed in the online environment
- Administrative – to proctor tests and exams, monitor student attendance and behavior, and provide supervision
- school administrator, technology teacher, other local teachers, secretary, custodian, and/or a student enrolled in the online program (i.e., e-tutor)

Barbour (2007)

## Current Research



- "Facilitators that are directly working with [online] students day by day are key to the success of the program" (Roblyer, Freeman, Stabler & Schneidmiller, 2007, p. 11)
- Average school-based teacher spends 2/3 of the time allocated to a single course on their volunteer duties related to supporting online students in their buildings (Barbour & Mulcahy, 2004; 2009)
- Recommended allocating one teacher per school of 175 students to support online learning (Shortall & Greene-Fraize, 2007)

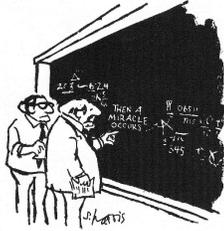
## The Challenge



- Teacher education doesn't prepare teachers for any of the virtual school roles they will be required to perform
  - certificate programs in online teaching
  - "Teacher Education Goes Into Virtual Schooling"
- Michigan, Alabama, New Mexico and Florida all have some legislative requirements for K-12 online learning

## Research Agenda

- Investigate what constitutes effective web-based design for adolescent learners
- Explore effective synchronous and asynchronous teaching strategies
  - consider what content should be taught using what medium
- Examine the duties and responsibilities performed by school-based teachers to support K-12 online learning



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

## Your Questions and Comments



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