

Providing a Distance Education Program By De Wilkens, MA



In an effort to be of service and share resources, many well-intentioned teachers and administrators attempt providing Distance Education. This is often done to establish an additional stream of revenue for a school, but also to fill a perceived need for surrounding schools or remote students.

Brick and mortar schools are in the business of providing quality education for students who come through their doors. It would seem that expanding that offering to students who are remote would be a fairly simple endeavor, however this is not always the case. While Distance Education is not rocket science, it definitely is a very different industry than on-site education. Many professionals are doing a disservice to their current clients and to those they are hoping to serve by spreading themselves too thinly and diluting an otherwise solid program.

It is not an attempt to control, nor a power struggle between institutions, that necessitated the need for the NADDOE to list requirements and guidelines for schools wishing to provide distance education. There is no short cut to becoming a viable, quality Distance Education provider. The almost 45-point check-list outlined by the NAD provides a quick reality check when educators seek to branch out beyond their scope of expertise.

[\(https://tdec.adventisteducation.org/dl/\)](https://tdec.adventisteducation.org/dl/)

If educators are interested in participating in Distance Education and gaining experience in that distinct field, it is advisable to reach out to a school who is successfully delivering quality Adventist curriculum through approved channels. Enquire about teaching a course or two with that school. Learn the processes, the Learning Management System, the specifics of curriculum delivery, and teacher-student interaction. Through this process, one might recognize solutions being sought are already in place. Existing programs might be enhanced or improved by a shared idea or perspective. At a minimum, there would be a greater understanding of what it takes to provide effective, quality education from a distance. A list of approved Distance Education providers is available on the NAD AETech website:

<https://tdec.adventisteducation.org/dl/approved-dl-schools/>

A screenshot of the Griggs International Academy website homepage. The header is dark blue with the Griggs International Academy logo on the left, and navigation links for "GRIGGS ONLINE", "DONATE", and "Select Language" on the right. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "ABOUT", "ENROLLMENT", "ACADEMIC", "STUDENT SERVICES", "NAD SERVICES", "MEDIA", and "CONTACT". The main content area features a large image of a young girl with curly hair, smiling and looking at a laptop. Overlaid on the image is the text "Inspire. Transform. Serve." in a large, white, serif font. Below this is a paragraph of text: "Welcome to GIA, an accredited Christian school serving K-12 learners around the globe. We offer a variety of services such as parent guided curriculum, online learning and on-site solutions for NAD and international schools. We look forward to being part of your educational journey." followed by the phone number "800-782-4769". At the bottom of the image are three white buttons with dark blue text: "ENROLL NOW", "REQUEST INFO", and "ONLINE PAYMENT".