



The sky is the limit!



An Overview of Blended Learning

For Blended Learning Teachers, School Administrators, and Board Administrators

What Can Blended Learning Look Like?

Blended learning is a combination – or blend – of face-to-face and online learning. Depending on a number of factors -- including teachers' and students' access to and comfort with technology -- blended learning can look different. This is why some people say that blended learning falls on a spectrum.



Some blended learning teachers deliver most of their lessons in a traditional manner. They use the learning management system (LMS) to post due dates, reminders, homework assignments, class notes, and enrichment or remediation materials. Students access the LMS mainly outside of class – before and after school, at lunch, on weekends and holidays, and while absent.



Some blended learning teachers have a small bank of computers in their classrooms that can be accessed flexibly. Students may take turns using the computers, or they may work in pairs on some assignments. Teachers of split grades can have one grade access content and assignments online, while the other does group work or is taught a face-to-face lesson.



Some blended learning teachers have access to a full mobile lab or teach in a computer lab. In such classes, teachers may deliver the majority of their lessons online, since there is a high ratio of students to computers. During class, teachers make observations, confer with students, and offer face-to-face instruction to those struggling with difficult concepts.





Some blended learning teachers augment face-to-face lessons with other technologies, such as cell phones, personal digital assistants, classroom response systems, and electronic whiteboards. Students use the LMS to discuss, blog, write quizzes, and submit work related to their in-class activities.



Some blended learning teachers supplement computer access by allowing students to bring in their own personal computing devices. Students connect to the school's wireless system or to a switch with cables and move fluidly between online and face-to-face lessons. The LMS is used on a regular, if not daily, basis and differentiation of instruction is high.



Some blended learning teachers work with students with unique personal circumstances. Students who are unable to attend school regularly for various reasons (e.g., phobias, extreme allergies, medical treatments) may be able to participate in online discussions, lessons, and even group work from outside the school building.

What's a Teacher to Do?

While all your students are quietly working online in class, you may wonder what you should be doing. If so, ask yourself these questions:

- Who needs help getting started or working through a problem?
- What student learning skills could I be observing or assessing?
- Which students or groups of students do I need to converse with about their work or progress?
- On what tasks or skills could I be giving oral feedback?

What Blended Learning Teachers Say

"Blended learning is probably the most important initiative in the ministry because it supports all other ministry priorities. Blended learning opens the door to individualized instruction for student success, credit rescue, credit recovery, and differentiated instruction for all students and in doing so supports a wide variety of School Improvement Plans."

"Blended learning supports the other initiatives because it facilitates student success by allowing students to control their learning through working at their own pace, using personally relevant assignments and providing info to parents, which allows them to be partners with teachers in guiding their children."