

Improve K-12 education through blended learning.

Connectivity solutions for students and instructors



The principles of blended learning have existed for decades, though the term itself was first used in 1999.¹ When the COVID-19 pandemic forced K-12 schools to suddenly provide remote-only instruction, it raised important questions about the “best” instructional approach: all in-person, all online or some combination of the two.

Now, a growing body of research points to blended learning being more effective than either online-only learning or face-to-face instruction.²

What is blended learning, anyway?

Precise definitions of blended learning remain elusive. As Margaret Driscoll, Ed.D., noted more than a decade ago,³ blended learning means different things to different people, evolving as technology evolves. In general, though, it’s understood to refer to an educational approach in which students learn via electronic and online media as well as traditional in-person, in-class instruction. Blended learning is also called hybrid learning.

The idea is that blended learning allows schools and teachers to combine advantages of both classroom and online learning into something that is better than either one alone.

Lessons from the pandemic

Even early in the COVID-19 pandemic, there was recognition that education might be permanently altered. A Forbes article⁴ from April 2020 sums it up in its title: “The Coronavirus

Pandemic has Unleashed a Revolution in Education From Now On, Blended Learning Will Be the Benchmark.”

Schools pushed all at once into online learning by COVID-19 restrictions had to figure out, quickly, how to make education work without physical classrooms. Now that those restrictions have mostly lifted and in-person instruction has returned, schools are encountering resistance in abandoning remote learning entirely.

Quite simply, students often prefer blended learning to in-person classes.⁵ A May 2022 analysis⁶ of 89 studies of K-12 education in the United States and 69 other countries, before and in the early stages of the pandemic, found that a majority of the studies found blended learning to be more effective than online-only or traditional instruction that does not integrate technology.

Blended learning: the best of both worlds

By combining the best features of in-person and online instruction, blended learning offers advantages for K-12 students, teachers and schools that include:

Support for different learning styles.

It’s common knowledge that different people learn best using different styles, whether that means visual, auditory, kinesthetic, logical, social, solitary or written modes. Blended learning environments make it easier for students to gravitate to their ideal ways of learning.

Alignment with the expectations of digital native students.

It’s unrealistic to try preparing young students for real-world success by not incorporating digital devices and online resources into their instruction. Blended learning recognizes and encourages mastery of the tools that digital natives will use throughout their lives.



1. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3750648#, 2. <https://www.edweek.org/technology/what-weve-learned-about-technology-and-learning-in-the-last-3-years/2023/03>, 3. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286029739_Blended_learning_Let%27s_get_beyond_the_hype, 4. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/enriquequedans/2020/04/13/the-coronavirus-pandemic-has-unleashed-a-revolution-in-education-from-now-on-blended-learning-will-be-the-benchmark/>, 5. <https://www.educations.com/articles-and-advice/blended-learning-potential-upside-18897>, 6. <https://bera-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/rev3.3353> © 2023 Verizon.

Greater student engagement, comprehension and retention.

Students uncomfortable with speaking up in class often engage more enthusiastically online. Conversely, some other students thrive when learning in physical proximity to teachers and their peers. For all students, teachers can mix different kinds of interactive and in-person tools and approaches to make their curriculum more engaging and fun, which can boost both comprehension and retention.

More individually paced learning.

Students can perform their remote schoolwork in their own place and time, and at their own pace. Students who breeze through their coursework can spend time on other enrichment activities, and those who learn more slowly can spend the extra time one-on-one with teachers or small peer groups, without being rushed to keep up with all their classmates.

Better use of instructors' time.

By eliminating or automating some administrative tasks required for classroom instruction –such as printing handouts, hand-grading assignments or uploading attendance data–online options allow teachers to spend more time actually teaching.

Increased attendance.

Many K-12 schools find that blended learning improves attendance rates, by allowing easy, anytime access to online classes and interactions with teachers. In addition, many students look forward to physically attending classes when it's less frequent and therefore something special to look forward to.

Data to help improve student outcomes.

Administrators can use the data generated by the online portion of blended learning to analyze trends and pinpoint where they might focus improvements, whether it's identifying individual students who need more assistance or entire class materials that a majority of students missed.

More broadly, we help:

- Reduce the digital divide by empowering all students with reliable, readily available access to online learning.
- Deliver the interactive, immersive and engaging experiences that today's students require.
- Provide accessible, safe and reliable digital experiences that expand learning with new capabilities.
- Leverage the power of 5G to open up new learning possibilities, from virtual reality to “gamified” collaboration and learning.
- Keep students and learning networks safe with advanced security solutions.

Learn more about Verizon solutions for K-12 blended learning.

Visit [Verizon.com/distancelearning](https://www.verizon.com/distancelearning)

How Verizon supports blended learning

To help students stay connected for the online portion of blended learning, Verizon offers a range of devices, network plans and collaboration tools to help K-12 schools make the most of their instructional options.

Verizon helps K-12 students stay connected from home or wherever they study remotely. Solutions we provide include:

- Digital devices such as smartphones, hotspots, laptops and tablets
- Connectivity plans to our reliable, secure network:
- Mobile Device Management solutions
- OneTalk mobile unified communications
- Video collaboration tools including Microsoft Teams and Cisco Webex
- The Verizon Innovative Learning HQ, a free online portal where teachers can access lessons, training tools and innovative apps