



The sky is the limit!



How Does Blended Learning Support School Priorities? For Board and School Administrators

How does blended learning align with ministry priorities?

Blended learning is a combination – or blend – of face-to-face and online learning. Preliminary research on blended learning suggests that it helps to:

- Increase student achievement by making it easier for students to put more detail in their written work;
- Close the gap by engaging such target groups as students with special education needs and boys in interactive and collaborative learning; and
- Increase parents' confidence in public education by providing avenues of electronic communication between home and school.

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 fits in with it all! I am able to differentiate the instruction with my students so easily with the activities provided. The program fits in with our school improvement plan as it allows the students to communicate their learning in a variety of ways. Integrating technology into their math and science lessons helps to make them relevant.”

How does blended learning align with the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF)?

Blended learning aligns well with the School Effectiveness Framework, and it can be used as a strategy to help achieve targets in Board and/or School Improvement Plans. The chart below makes connections between selected SEF indicators and the provincially-developed online content, communication tools, and assessment tools found in the provincial learning management system (LMS), which students and teachers use for blended learning.

	Indicator	Example
1.2	During learning, students receive ongoing, descriptive feedback based on the success criteria, from the teacher and from peers.	Many tools in the provincial LMS, including the blog, dropbox, and discussions, let students provide and receive descriptive feedback on work. This feedback is archived and can be viewed at any time.



	Indicator	Example
1.7	Ongoing communication is in place to allow students, teachers and parents to effectively monitor student learning.	Teachers can use the news, schedule, and content tools in the LMS to post assignments, updates, or deadlines. The classlist tool, which students can always access, lists work they have completed online.
4.2	A clear emphasis on high levels of achievement in literacy and numeracy is evident throughout the school.	The discussions, blog, articles, and chat tools in the LMS encourage students to read and write with care. The LMS's quiz tool can help students determine how well they know math or understand a text.
4.3	Teaching and learning incorporates 21 st century content, global perspectives, learning skills, resources and technologies.	Secondary courses and elementary course packages in many subject areas are freely available for use. Teachers can augment this content with relevant news articles, websites, and simulations.
4.5	Instruction and assessment are differentiated in response to student strengths, needs and prior learning.	The LMS allows teachers to release different content at different times to different students, depending on individual needs and strengths. Through the LMS, students can work at their own pace.
4.6	Resources for students are relevant, current, accessible and inclusive.	The courses and course packages in the LMS contain engaging videos, animations, and exercises created by practising teachers. Teachers can easily modify the content so it remains relevant and current.
6.4	Learning opportunities, resources and supports are provided to help parents support student learning and have productive parent-teacher-student conversations.	While studying at home under the supervision of their parents, students can use the LMS to review difficult concepts, complete or submit assignments, collaborate with peers on group assignments, and send messages to their teachers. Parents can easily see what teachers have asked their children to do.