

Blended Learning

An Action Plan for Teachers

Background Information

Along with traditional face-to-face teaching methods, many teachers have successfully incorporated the use of electronic resources into their daily practice. This blended approach, from planning and instruction through to student learning and assessment continues to provide more accessible, equitable learning opportunities for our young people. Blended learning has greatly increased the digital capacity of our students as they prepare for their future learning in the 21st century. Having students learn in a digital environment also presents many unique challenges and considerations.

This year, the Ministry of Education has provided funding for all publicly funded school Boards with an e-Learning Contact (*eLC*) to facilitate the implementation of blended learning in many of our classrooms. This initiative is a pilot project with the HPEDSB this year, following the lead of several Boards dating back to the 2008-2009 school year. Based on past practice, the Ministry will allow 25% of Grade 4-12 students and their teachers in our Board to participate.

The blended learning model has inspired creativity among teachers and students alike as they collaborate with other members of the class, students at different schools, and beyond.

The following is a plan for teachers interested in implementing blended learning in their classrooms.

Some key terms

e-learning - (synonym - online learning) - Learning conducted in a digital environment.

LMS - Learning Management System

Desire to LEARN (D2L) - The Ministry of Education's provider for the LMS

District e-Learning Contact (DeLC) - HPEDSB – Amanda Allison

Regional e-Learning Contact (ReLC) – South Eastern Ontario – Matt Robinson

A definition of Blended Learning

Blended Learning may simply be defined as:

Traditional face-to-face learning combined with learning in a digital environment.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has refined this definition slightly by including that ***the use of the LMS**** provided by e-Learning Ontario be part of the digital environment.



*** What is the LMS?**

This year, the Ministry has allowed classroom teachers' access to the LMS (*Learning Management System*). What this means is that all of the tools normally reserved for teachers who are delivering e-learning courses are now available to classroom teachers.

Some of the key tools include:

- **News** section to post current announcements and information
- **Dropbox** for students to submit work digitally
- **Discussion Board** where students may engage in rich online discussions
- **Course Content** that may be customized by the teacher
- Online **Rubric** capabilities to assess work online
- **Class Roster**
- and many more...

- Probably the most unique tool available to students is **e-portfolio**, which is *new for all users* of the LMS
 - e-portfolio allows students to build an electronic portfolio of all items that showcase their ability across all of their courses, even personal work. This follows them throughout their high school experience and is only limited by their creativity and talents.

Ministry of Education support for Teachers of Blended Learning



All teachers are encouraged to enroll in the Blended Learning Provincial e-community. Within **[e-community Ontario](#)**, there are several communities of teachers sharing ideas and resources about education.

Registering in an e-community

- 1) Visit <https://community.elearningontario.ca/index-en.asp>
- 2) Choose Register
- 3) You will be asked to self-register in an e-community, please select:
Blended Learning Provincial Community (BLPC)

Within the Blended Learning e-community, teachers may:

- view numerous [webinars and videos](#) about best practices surrounding e-learning, blended learning, and use of the LMS
- learn with [Take2 Tutorials](#), short recorded tutorials that cover new features of the LMS
- access [support documents](#) from e-Learning Ontario
- listen to [testimonials](#) from teachers and students
- learn and [share best practices](#)

Getting Started

As teachers desire to learn more about the LMS and want to embark upon Blended Learning with their class, they may follow the steps below.

Step #1 - Personal Information

- Student and Classroom information for all grades has been uploaded to the LMS prior to meeting

Step #2 - Accessing the LMS

- The DeLC will assign you a blended learning class, complete with content and the tools of the LMS. You will be provided with a Username and Password.

Step #3 - The TOOLS of the LMS

- Take some time to gain competency with some of the **major tools** of the LMS.
 - News
 - Discussion Board
 - Dropbox
 - Working with Content

** Of course, teachers are invited to experiment with any of the tools that they would like to incorporate in their classroom.*

Step #4 - Self - Assessment and Reflection

- Please login to the course HPEDSB Blended Learning Staff and download the form titled, Blended Learning Implementation Continuum, from the **Content** section.
- Please submit your reflection to the **Dropbox**.
- The eLC will correspond with to discuss your reflections.

Step #5 - Opening the class to students

- To add students to your class, a valid e-mail is required for each of the students. Please complete the form found at:

Support Available

The advent of e-learning and blended learning in Ontario classrooms is an opportunity for educators to collaborate on another level.

All teachers are encouraged to access support from the following:

Personal Contacts

- ***e-Learning Contact (DeLC)*** - HPEDSB – Amanda Allison
- aallison@hpedsb.on.ca

- ***Regional e-Learning Contact (ReLC)*** – South Eastern Region – Matt Robinson
- matthew.robinson@ucdsb.on.ca