



Remote and Online Learning

In a mobile world, learning is no longer confined to a static time and place. Face-to-face and online learning, or a blend of the two, are now equally suitable choices. The goal should be for quality learning in either contexts. The focus needs to be to create a unique online learning environment that suits the needs of the learners, not an online replica of face-to-face school. There are a couple of key challenges. The first is to ensure that any online and blended pedagogy is potentially stronger than a real time learning experience. The second is to ensure that online learning occurs in highly relational, collaborative contexts. No learner should ever feel alone in cyberspace.

What does this mean for learning?

The rapidly expanding potential of information in a digital age provides opportunities to support unique student passion and purpose and to cultivate lifelong learning pathways. As a result, learning can become very personal.

Blended learning modifies learning beyond what was previously conceivable because students can experience 'the best of both worlds'. Optimal learning conditions might involve components of online learning mixed with face-to-face, real-life experiences. This could occur in specific learning communities or career-focused learning experiences in workplaces or other institutions.

Then	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher delivered content • Prescribed curriculum • Restricted in time and place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner chooses content • Unlimited knowledge opportunities • Learning anytime, anyplace

Starting Questions

1. Why do you want to develop remote learning opportunities? Do you have a clear goal?
2. Does your learning community or institution have a clear vision statement for online and blended learning?
3. How might you achieve consistency of online learning opportunities across your learning community or institution?
4. Should you have a shared platform and software tools for online learning?
5. Are online and face-to-face learning experiences enabling learners to apply key skills to content?
6. Are you providing opportunities for learners to develop the skills that support online and blended learning?

Key Initial Actions

1. A dedicated team for online and blended learning.
2. A shared vision statement for the use and development of online and blended learning.

3. Conducted research of online and blended learning options and best practices.
4. Decision-making around online platforms and software and whether they should be; synchronous or asynchronous; agnostic or prescribed.
5. Clear and distributed leadership.
6. Co-opted external expertise as necessary.

On-going Actions

1. Permit time for collaborative planning of online learning experiences.
2. Co-create learning opportunities with students.
3. Ensure skills and competency development is catered for in all learning experiences and track the process.
4. Develop clear strategies for high level online interaction between learning guides/teachers and the learners/students.
5. Ensure learning experiences are collaborative and social.
6. Be aware that it is very easy for someone to feel alone in 'cyberspace' and adopt strategies to address this.
7. Target professional development to develop capacity to design and deliver personal learning experiences online.
8. Consider new roles: e.g. online pedagogy coach; online community worker.
9. Avoid allowing software to dictate learning direction and goals.

Further Reading

Online Learning

[Aurora Institute](#)

[Aurora Institute: Fast Facts about Online Learning](#)

[Aurora Institute: National Standards for Quality Online Teaching](#)

[A "Modern" Classroom Model, Designed By Teachers, Helps Students Stay Engaged And Connected](#)

Blended Learning

[What is blended learning?](#)

[Aurora Institute: Blending Learning: The Evolution of Online and Face-to-Face Education from 2008–2015](#)

[Blended learning: what's in it for the learner?](#)

[Introducing 5 Domains of Blended Learning Teaching](#)

[Blended Learning Won't Work Without a Strong Culture to Support It](#)

[Blended Learning: At the core of children learning](#)

[Four Essential Principles of Blended Learning](#)

Watch

[What is Blended Learning?](#)

[Benefits of Blended Learning](#)

Open-sourced online learning

[Alison](#)

[Coursera](#)

[The OpenUniversity](#)

[Eneza Education](#)

[The Modern Classrooms Project](#)

[M-Shule](#)

[eLimu](#)

[Arifu](#)

[Future Ready Schools](#)