

OLTD 511 Assignment #2 - Assessing Blended Programs

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Program: The Impact Academy

Video #: 12

Blended Model: Enriched Virtual Model

Summary: In this model students work online and at home but can get face-to-face assistance from teachers if they are struggling. Students access course content through learning management software at home. Students have a lot of control over when, where, and how they learn but still have the support of a teacher when required.

Rank: 1

Rationale/Justification: I like how this model empowers learners and has them take ownership and responsibility for their education. Students have to figure out what works best for them and can complete their work at the own pace, in their own place, on their own schedule. I think this model can potentially be the most socially isolating of all the models.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) N

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources		Students spend most of their time learning on their own, but can see teachers whenever they need help.	
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design			Students learn the majority of the content online.

Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning	Not enough information about this in the video. Doesn't seem as focused on standardized tests and results as other programs.		
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students use their own computers at home for most of their learning and appear to have access to laptops at school.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback	Not enough information about this in the video.		

Program: Teach to ONE Math

Video #: 1

Blended Model: A La Carte

Summary: The Teach to ONE Math program in the video seems to operate as a course students can take instead of a traditional face-to-face math course within their high school timetable. It allows students to learn at their own pace and individualizes the learning experience. Teachers seem to be available to provide assistance and face-to-face instruction when required.

Rank: 2

Rationale/Justification: I like that this program seems to operate within a traditional high school timetable and can seemingly be adopted by any school that chooses.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources			Students have access to online and face-to-face support
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery			Instruction seems to be personalized for students and delivered online
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students have access to laptops and the internet to access course materials	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		Teachers monitor student progress	

Program: Carpe Diem

Video #: 10

Blended Model: Flex

Summary: Students perform most of their work following an individualized online curriculum in a central learning lab comprised of 300 cubicles. The computers adapt and prescribe curriculum for each student individually. They also send data to teachers to analyse and use to customize instruction for students. Once students have learned concepts from the computers they move to a classroom where a teacher gives them projects and learning activities to provide them with context and critical thinking skills.

Rank: 3

Rationale/Justification: I like the professional atmosphere at this school and how students can learn on their own in a private cubicle away from the distractions of their peers. I think this is more effective than a flipped classroom because students are provided time at school to learn the material and are not expected to do it for homework. Like most of these US models, it does seem a little too corporate and focused on standardized tests and saving money.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources			There seems to be a strong sense of community and relationships between teachers and students.
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design		Students are able to learn online without social distractions.	

<p>Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery</p>			<p>Students learn content individually and are provided with enrichment opportunities by teachers.</p>
<p>Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning</p>		<p>Like most of these US models assessment seems to be done by computers and very focused on achieving high scores on standardized tests.</p>	
<p>Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology</p>		<p>Students use computers to access and learn content.</p>	
<p>Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback</p>		<p>Teachers use computer data to customize and individualize learning. Like most of these US schools they seem very concerned with standardized test results.</p>	

Program: Acton Academy

Video #: 13

Blended Model: Flex

Summary: At this school teachers are viewed as guides because they believe teachers are there to set-up the environment so students can be self directed learners and intrinsically motivated. The students are not separated into grade levels, they are on individual learning paths. The physical space is very open allowing students and guides to move around and interact with each other.

Rank: 4

Rationale/Justification: I like that this program is not overly focused on standardized test results and saving money, but more on developing the students themselves.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources			There seems to be a good teacher to student ratio and the atmosphere seems very conducive to learning.
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design	There does not seem to be a very large online component to this school. Students were shown using a laptop cart but not much else.		
Cat 3: Instructional		Students take all the core subject areas.	

Design and Delivery			
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning			Assessment is not focused on standardized tests.
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		The model is very forward thinking, but does not necessarily utilize technology in a very innovative way.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback			The staff seem to be very aware of how the students are performing and do not rely too much on computer data.

Program: Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Video #: 15

Blended Model: A La Carte

Summary: This video is an example of a teacher teaching a synchronous lesson as a part of an online virtual course which students can take outside of their regular timetable in an a la carte model. The teacher uses video conferencing, screen sharing, and learning management software to provide content and interact with students. Students are able to see and hear each other and their teacher in real-time using webcams and microphones.

Rank: 5

Rationale/Justification: This model is very similar to our OLTD Zoom sessions. I like that it humanizes the online education experience by allowing the students and the teacher to see and hear each other. There seems to be a good amount of student engagement and interaction.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources		The teacher is available to support students using multiple online communication mediums. It is not clear if there is any opportunity to meet with the teacher face-to-face.	
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design			This course makes use of a lot of different online communication tools and provides students with numerous different ways to interact with each other.
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery		The teacher seems very engaging and the lesson seems well prepared and organized. It seems like the online equivalent of a traditional face-to-face lesson.	

Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning		The teacher seems to be constantly using formative assessment to gauge students understanding.	
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Video conferencing software is used. This is effective but not innovative.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		The teacher is constantly checking for understanding during her lesson. It is not clear in the video which other methods are used to gather student feedback.	

Program: Woodland Park High School

Video #: 8

Blended Model: Flipped Classroom

Summary: The teacher creates videos with Camtasia Studio screencasting software for students to view at home. Students apply what they have learned at home in class. This is the opposite of the traditional teaching model where students learn content from the teacher in class, then apply it at home in their homework assignments. The teacher is more of a facilitator, tutor, or guide than a lecturer.

Rank: 6

Rationale/Justification: In theory I like this model a lot. It provides opportunities for class time to be used in a more productive and valuable hands-on way. It forces students to take ownership of their learning and come to class prepared. In practice I'm not certain how well this model would work because most students do not do homework. They would come to class unprepared which would make it difficult to accomplish the activities the teacher has planned.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources		Students attend class everyday and can get assistance from their classroom teacher. No real-time support is provided while watching the pre-recorded lessons.	
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design		Students access lessons online and are expected to come to class prepared.	
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery			Teachers can spend their time actually working with students, not just standing at the front of the room talking.
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students use the internet to access content. Not much	

		technology in the classroom.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		Teachers are able to spend more of their time interacting with students and formatively assessing student progress.	

Program: KIPP Empower Academy

Video #: 2

Blended Model: Station Rotation

Summary: KIPP Empower Academy is an elementary school in Los Angeles which has students rotate through subject areas with one of the rotation stations being a computer. Student data is tracked and provided to teachers who can use the data to customize and individualize the learning experience for each student.

Rank: 7

Rationale/Justification: The statistics provided in the video seem to indicate that this approach is leading to above average achievement. The school seems to be a very positive and forward thinking environment with strong values and dedicated staff.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) Y

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources			There is a 1 to 14 ratio of teachers to students

Cat 2: Online Organization and Design			The software seems very easy for young children to use
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning			Student data is tracked through online software which can help staff identify areas of strength and weakness
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students use laptops and ipads to access content	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback			Teachers use feedback to customize and individualize the learning experience for students.

Program: B.L.A.S.T. - Blended Learning for Alliance School Transformation

Video #: 3

Blended Model: Station Rotation

Summary: This school model has students rotate through three stations: (1) teacher-led instruction with a 1-16 teacher to student ratio, (2) collaborative learning where students work in groups of 4, and (3) individual learning where students work at their own pace on a computer. All grading is done through the computer and results are made available to students, teachers, parents, and administrators.

Rank: 8

Rationale/Justification: One aspect I do not like about this model is that all grading is done by the computer which means that assessment is most likely done using simple write or wrong answers. I believe there should be human element to assessment.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) N

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources		There is a 1-16 teacher to student ratio.	
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design		Student progress is tracked through computer software.	
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning	All assessment seems to be done by computers.		
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students use laptops to view lessons and complete assignments.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		Staff get all assessment data from computer software. 1-16 teacher to student ratio is good for formative assessment.	

Program: Phaedrus Blended Learning Initiative

Video #: 5

Blended Model: Station Rotation

Summary: This school has students rotate through teacher instruction, small groups, and computer learning. The computer learning component is designed to allow students to work at their own pace. Students who are more advanced can move at a faster pace and be challenged by more complex problems. Students who are having trouble with a topic can move at a slower pace and have extra practice.

Rank: 9

Rationale/Justification: This system seems to produce good academic results, but it seems very focused on comparing students to standardized norms and cutting costs. The primary goal is obviously student achievement, but cost effectiveness is not far behind.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) N

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources	Student to teacher ratio seems to be 1-28.		
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design		They seem to use the same software program that most of these schools to. It is effective but to focused on ranking students based on test scores.	

Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery	Student to teacher ratio is one of the highest of all the examples.		
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning		Students are mostly assessed and ranked by a computer. This does allow for teachers to analyse data and differentiate instruction.	
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students have access to computers. Not much else.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		Teachers use feedback provided by the software to differentiate instruction.	

Program: Aspire Public Schools

Video #: 4

Blended Model: Station Rotation

Summary: This is a non-profit school organization with the mission of getting low-income students prepared for college. Students rotate through individual small group instruction with a teacher, working independently with a partner or small group, and working on computers with adaptive software. Student data provided by software allows teachers to customize learning for individual students.

Rank: 10

Rationale/Justification: One thing that I do not like about this model is that the school seems very focused on API scores and the grading seems to mostly be done by software. A number that a software program provides about a student may not tell the whole story. There is no mention of core skills such as critical thinking, creative thinking, social responsibility, etc.

Is this a school/program I would want to send my own children to? (Y/N) N

	Baseline	Effective	Exemplary
Cat 1: Learner Support and Resources		Students have access to computers and the teacher to student ratio seems good.	
Cat 2: Online Organization and Design		Students seem to be able to use the software easily and effectively	
Cat 3: Instructional Design and Delivery	Not enough information about this in the video.		
Cat 4: Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning		Seems to me mostly done by software and focused on API scores.	
Cat 5: Innovative Teaching with Technology		Students have access to laptops, but not much other technology.	
Cat 6: Faculty use of Student Feedback		Focus seems too much on API scores, but the staff do seem to care about the students progress.	