Shifting The Curve: Blended Learning Improves Outcomes for District 6 Students

What are the Key Elements of Blended Learning?

TIGHT FEEDBACK LOOPS
Students receive immediate feedback using digital tools & direct teacher feedback

QUALITY STUDENT-TO-STUDENT INTERACTION
Students engage in sustained academic conversations with their peers

STUDENT OWNERSHIP
Students are clear about where they are in their learning progression & become the drivers pushing to meet their learning goals

TARGETED SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION
Students receive small group & individual support tailored to their learning needs

Greeley-Evans
WELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 6

Greeley-Evans School District 6 in northern Colorado serves 22,000 students across 33 district and charter K-12 schools. The district piloted Blended Learning at 1 school in 2014-15, expanded to 12 schools in 2015-16, and supported 17 schools, including 9 elementary, 3 K-8, 4 middle, and 1 alternative high school in 2016-17.

District 6's implementation of Blended Learning focuses on Four Key Elements: Targeted Instruction, Tight Feedback Loops, Student Ownership, and Quality Student-To-Student Interactions.

District 6 sees Blended Learning as a key driver for changing student academic outcomes. That is why it is core to the Innovation2020 Strategic Plan.
In Their Own Words

"Using Blended Learning strategies gives me real-time daily information on my students' progress. No matter what their learning need is, I know that they're getting lessons at their level. When I'm able to meet with smaller groups of children, I'm better able to differentiate my instruction and meet learner needs."

-Tammy Mayeda, 1st grade teacher

"Blended Learning has been an instrumental piece of our journey to increase the degree of personalization in students' education. We have seen increases in student engagement and achievement since employing blended designs in our K-8 classrooms."

-Jon Cooney, Principal

"We started this journey with the question, what if there was an approach that could help us meet the needs of our students who are so far behind they have lost hope or so far ahead that they have lost interest? With great teachers seamlessly integrating digital instruction into the learning process, we are better meeting the needs of every student."

-Deagan Andrews, Director of Instructional Technology

Academic Results

The schools that implemented Blended Learning in District 6 saw impressive academic gains.

Elementary Spotlight

- In 2015-16 students in 2nd-5th grade blended classrooms across 6 elementary schools outperformed the district average on Math and English Language Arts common assessments. These positive trends held when students took the state CMAS assessment in 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Additionally, in 2016-17 District 6 partnered with the University of Northern Colorado to research the effect of Blended Learning on Math growth and achievement at an additional 6 elementary schools. The study found Blended Learning had a positive impact on the achievement of all students and an impact on the growth and achievement of students who are learning English.

Middle School Spotlight

- Blended Learning improved academic growth and achievement for all middle schools, including our highest and lowest performing schools. From 2015 to 2017 all 4 Blended Learning middle schools improved on English Language Arts performance on CMAS, some as much as 26 percent. Our lowest performing middle school in 2014-15 had the greatest gains in growth and achievement in 2016-17 after implementing Blended Learning.

Blended Learning Improved Growth In Our Lowest Performing Middle School

2016-2017 CMAS (median growth percentile)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
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<td>7TH GRADE</td>
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Summary of growth from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017

+14 Point Gain in the Overall Median Growth Percentile in Math

+11.5 Point Gain in the Overall Median Growth Percentile in ELA

Teacher Support

Teachers are excited about the possibilities of Blended Learning in their classrooms and schools. In spring 2017, we surveyed 96 Blended Learning teachers across 6 elementary schools as part of our partnership with the University of Northern Colorado. In that survey 79% of teachers reported they are enthusiastic about the use of Blended Learning in their schools, 63% of teachers believe that Blended Learning will improve their teaching effectiveness, and 73% of teachers agree or strongly agree that Blended Learning will have a significant impact on student achievement.

Partnerships and Awards

In addition to supporting schools within Greeley-Evans, District 6 has inspired schools around the country as a national thought leader. District 6 school and district leaders have been featured as presenters at iNACOL, International Society for Technology in Education, Blended and Personalized Conference, The Learning Counsel, and Colorado Education Initiative (CEI). District 6 was featured as 1 of 3 districts to partner with The Learning Accelerator to design a district-wide implementation plan for Blended Learning. CEI also selected District 6 as part of their Accelerator III Network to deepen and scale personalized learning across the state of Colorado. District 6 hosted its first Blended Learning Summit in November 2016. More than 140 people attended the summit, which featured school tours and workshops. The district will host a second Blended Learning Summit November 2, 2017.

Looking Forward

District 6 sees Blended Learning as a first step in creating a personalized learning experience for all students. Personalization for students is priority number 1 in the District 6 Innovation2020 Strategic Plan under the goal of student learning and achievement.