



IDEA PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION
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Project Co-Sponsors:

KU Center for Research on Learning • CAST • NASDSE



www.centerononlinelearning.org

Today's Presentation

- **Goal: Introduce the Center and key policy and practice issues for Communities of Practice to address when considering online learning**



Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities

The Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities is conducting research to identify:

- Issues
- Trends
- Promising practices and challenges



Online Center Co-Partners

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Our Mission

To research how online learning can be made **more accessible**, engaging, and effective **for K-12 learners** by investigating approaches that address learner variability within the range of conditions under which online learning occurs.

Goal #1

Identify and verify trends and issues related to the participation of students with disabilities.

Goal #2

Identify and describe potential **positive outcomes and negative consequences of participation in online learning for students with disabilities.**

Goal #3

Identify and develop **promising approaches** for increasing the accessibility and potential effectiveness of online learning for students with disabilities.

Goal #4

Test the feasibility, usability, and potential effectiveness (or promise) of one or more key approaches.

Online Learning Definitions

- **Online Learning** - education in which instruction, content, and learning are mediated primarily by network technologies such as the Internet.

Figure 2. Definition of blended learning

Blended learning is...



a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace

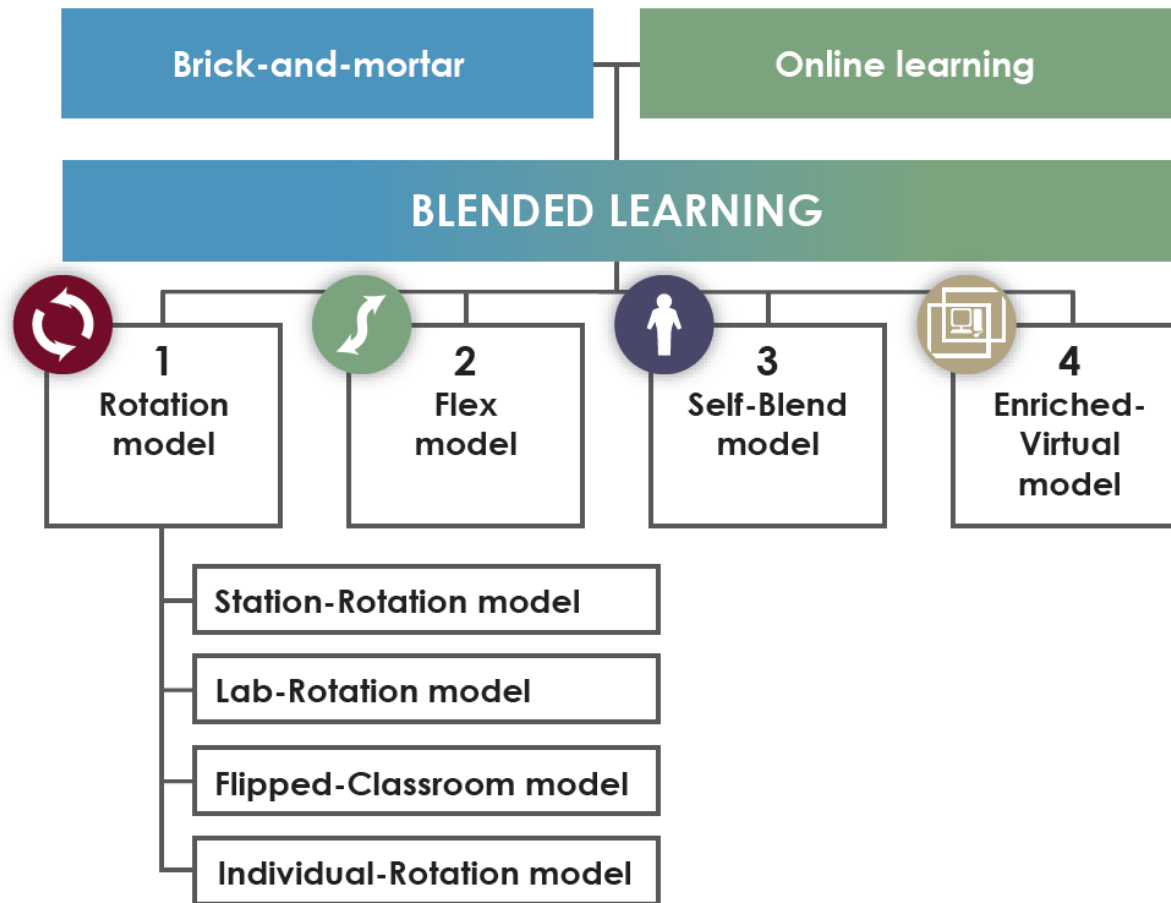


and



at least in part at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home.

Online Learning: Blended Taxonomy



Growth and Numbers

- 55% of districts have students enrolled in online courses
- 1.8 million course enrollments across the U.S.¹
- Huge growth from 2003 (i.e., 222,000)
- 74% of enrollments were in high school, 9% in middle school, 4% in elementary¹
- Most enrollments are in credit recovery courses¹
- Most districts have 30 or fewer online enrollments¹
- 6.7% Students with Disabilities² **OR** varies drastically by districts – if they know (one district estimates 30%)

¹Watson, J., et. al. (2012). Keeping pace with K-12 online & blended learning: An annual review of policy and practice. Evergreen Education Group.

²(Statistics were contributed by David Glick, of David B. Glick & Associates, LLC in cooperation with iNACOL, from an annual survey used to gather information regarding the demographics of students participating in online programs.)

Limitations: mostly self-reported data

Trends

- More blended schools (often charters)
- Unable to gather info for blended schools category – not a category in state reporting, may be school-within-school, or just one teacher in a school
- State Virtual Schools course enrollments grew 30% on average last year

Online Courses

- 5 states require students to take an online course before they graduate
 - Alabama
 - Florida
 - Michigan (April 2006)
 - Idaho (Dec 2012, law repealed)
 - Virginia (class of 2017)
 - Any others?



The Center: First Year

- **Reaching out Nationally through Surveys**
- **Scanning State Policies and Reviewing other Extant Data**
- **Conducting Case Studies and Strategic Inquiries**

Preliminary Findings: Policy and Practice Issues

- 1. Accessibility: technology, content/curriculum**
- 2. IEP teams: knowledge for decision making**
- 3. Funding: who pays for what and how**
- 4. Data and Accountability**
- 5. Provider qualifications: special, general educators and related services providers**

Accessibility

- Technology: ADA Section 508 + VPAT

<http://centeronlinelearning.org/resources/vpat/>

- Content/curriculum
- Instruction

IEP Team Decision Making

- How are decisions being made? Unilaterally?
- Need to know what the specific online environment can and cannot provide – content, instruction, and assessment
- Need to know what student attributes are needed to flourish in online environment
- What are appropriate accommodations in the specific online environment? Who provides these?
- Parents need to know that their role will likely be enlarged

Funding

- Which district, state, or provider is responsible for which pieces of education?
- Many schools are only paid for a student's education if they complete the course(s).

Data and Accountability

- Again, who is responsible for collecting what data – anybody?
- And reporting it???? To Whom?
- Who is accountable for providing what services – or even knowing if student has IEP?
- Who is responsible for quality provision of services?

Provider Qualifications

- Are the vendors providing quality services?
Any special education services?
- Do local districts provide special education?
- Are the teachers highly qualified?
- Are special educators providing special education supports and services?
- What about related services?

For more on the Center

Visit us at: centeronlinelearning.com

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 Follow us on Twitter at: @OnlineCenter1