A BLENDED CLASSROOM:

5 ways to blend with Blackboard

Enable students to engage in meaningful ways, apply learning, and stay connected

Blackboard®

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Introduction

Blended learning opens up possibilities for your students to succeed. It allows students to engage in meaningful ways, apply learning, and stay connected. To help your school make the most of blended learning, let's take an in-depth look at this engaging learning model. First, we'll give you a clear understanding of what it is, what it looks like in the classroom, and how it can benefit your students and teachers. Then we'll walk you through five ways to incorporate blended learning in your school. You'll read about success stories, tools, and resources that will help you successfully implement blended learning in your school or district.

What is blended learning?

A look at what it is, how it works,
and how it can benefit students and schools

Blended learning defined

blend-ed learn-ing [blend-ed lur-ning]

noun

A formal education program in which a student learns:

1

at least in part through online
learning, with some element
of student control over time,
place, path, and/or pace

2

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

3

and the modalities along
each student's learning path
within a course or subject
are connected to provide an
integrated learning experience

Source: Staker, Heather, and Michael B. Horn. "Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation."
Classifying K–12 Blended Learning. Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation, May 2012. Web. 30 Mar. 2014.

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Blended learning:

45% of blended learning teachers have experienced online learning as a student.

24+ At least 24 states and Washington DC have blended schools.

45% of teachers want to learn how to use a wide range of emerging technologies to personalize learning and differentiate instruction for their students.
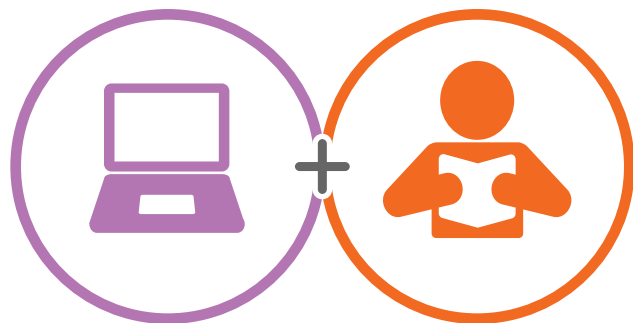
›   Students are focused longer through personalized instruction.
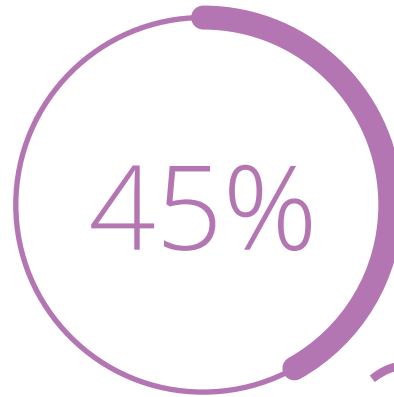
›   Students develop skills for the 21st century as they work digitally.

›   Students have the ability to interact with peers and teachers about classwork inside and outside the classroom.

Source: Project Tomorrow (2013). "2013 Trends in Online Learning: Virtual, Blended and Flipped Classrooms.
Source: Evergreen Education (2013). "Keeping Pace with K-12 Online & Blended Learning."
Source: Project Tomorrow (2013). "From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Digital Conversion of the K-12 Classroom."

What does blended learning look like?

Blended classrooms look very different than the traditional education model.
In blended classrooms, students aren't sitting at their desks; they are participating—learning and teaching each other, watching instructional videos, and engaging in one-on-one face time with the teacher.

Increased:
> Student engagement
> Individual student-teacher face time
> Student achievement

"The person who's talking is the person who's learning."
2nd Grade Class Motto,
Lawrence Elementary School, Kansas

"You're definitely not going to be able to recognize the front of the classroom, there isn't one"
Danira Flores, Math TOSA,
Lawrence Public Schools

Blended learning by the numbers

32%

62%

62% of classroom teachers see their classroom as a blended-learning environment—an increase of 32% in just one year.

40%

40% of district administrators view blended learning as having the greatest impact on transforming teaching and learning.

Source: Project Tomorrow, Digital Learning Report, 2014

Inside an innovative classroom: Lawrence Public Schools

Let's take a look inside a school that has successfully adopted blended learning.

Lawrence Public Schools wanted to increase teacher-student face time and student engagement in their classrooms. To achieve these goals, Lawrence adopted Blackboard solutions to embrace blended learning as part of their formal education program.

Students now learn through both online learning and supervised brick-and-mortar instruction. They watch flipped lessons on their devices, teach each other concepts, work in groups or alone, and interact individually with the teacher. They do just about everything except sit quietly in rows of desks.
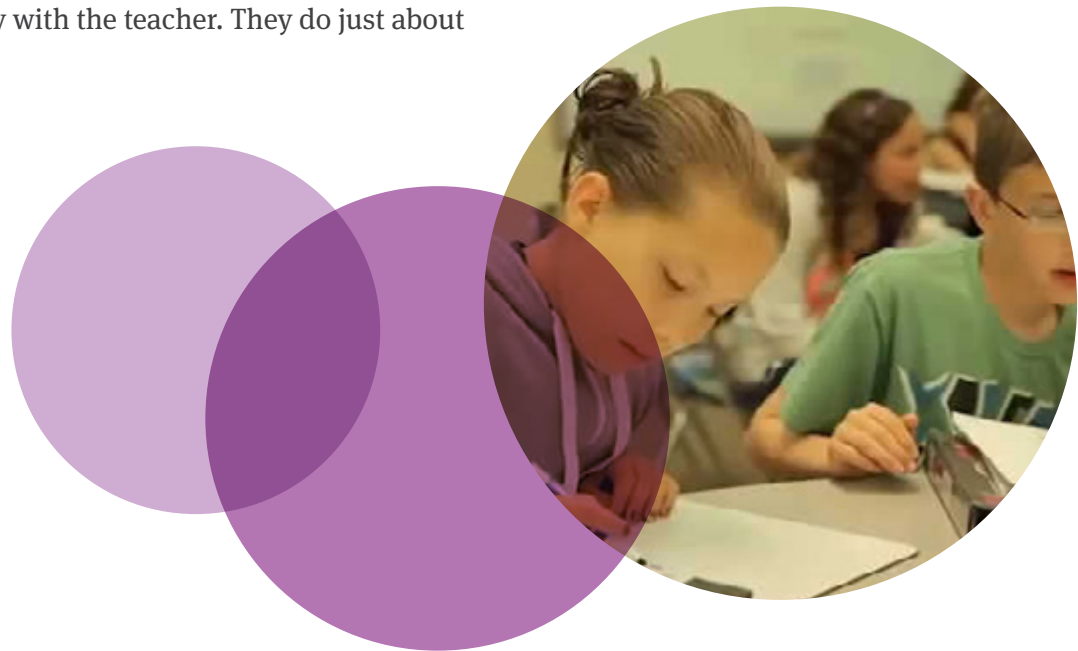
Success in Lawrence

At Lawrence Public Schools, teachers, students, and parents strongly support blended learning. And the success rates show why.

98%

98% of Lawrence blended learning teachers believe student engagement has increased

95%

95% of Lawrence blended learning teachers believe students' attitudes have improved since implementing blended learning

100%

100% of Lawrence blended learning teachers agree that blended learning provides the teacher more time to work with individual students during class

97%

97% of Lawrence blended learning teachers believe blended learning is more equitable for all students than traditional learning

Source: Lawrence Public Schools, Blended Teacher Survey, 2014

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Blended learning in action

"When I was home sick I decided to log into Blackboard on Discussions so I could stay with my class"

Evy, 5th grade student, Lawrence Public Schools

"When you can step out and just watch the kids work and they're just so engaged that they lose all track of time, that to me is authentic engagement and that is what we're producing in these classrooms."

Dr. Angelique Kobler, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Lawrence Public Schools

"As a parent, I like Blackboard and anything associated with blended learning because I think it makes my son happy to be at school and excited to learn."

Susan, 2nd grade parent, Lawrence Public Schools
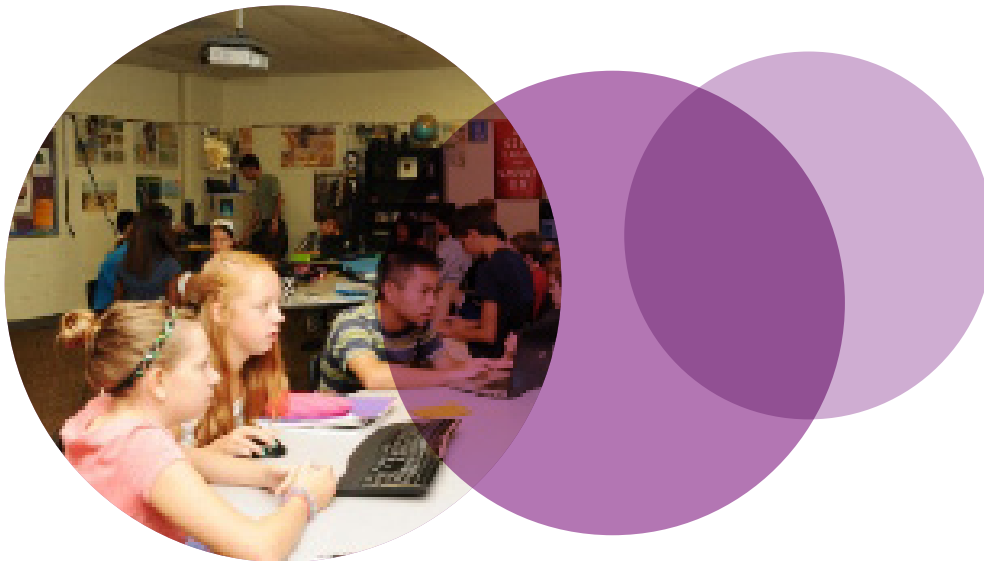
Dive deeper into blended learning

Find out how Lawrence achieved blended learning success. Download the in-depth case study now

Find out how Blackboard can get your district blending. Contact us

Stay tuned in. Read the blog "Defining Blended Learning"

Blackboard

5 ways to embrace blended learning in your school

Engage. Collaborate. Flip. Assess. Communicate.

Blackboard

Engage

Create the ultimate learning environment with digital content

53%

53% of technology directors AND curriculum directors report they plan a substantial transition to digital content from print over the next 3 years

Source: EdNet Insight Survey, 2014

61%

61% of district leaders report positive results implementing digital content

Source: Project Tomorrow, Speak Up Survey, 2014

76%

76% of administrators say that more digital content usage at their school would be beneficial in increasing student engagement in school and learning.

Source: EdNet Insight Survey, 2014

In focus: An engaged classroom

A fourth-grade teacher in upstate New York used Blackboard to introduce her students to owl pellets before an in-class dissection. Using the Blackboard Classroom's Easy Rich Media, she found the video then easily added it to her Blackboard class.

In the classroom, she played the video from Blackboard for her students on a SMART interactive white board. Later, students watched the video again from home to show their family they were so excited about what they were doing in class.

Not only did the teacher generate excitement and engage her students, she was able to reuse and add to this great content the next school year.

See for yourself >>

Easy options for adding digital content

Blackboard offers several ways to implement multimedia in a blended classroom.

Easy Rich Media	**Interactive Video**	**Blackboard Open Content**	**Content Editor**	**Digital Content Partnerships**
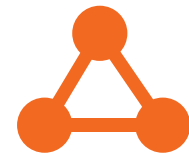
Let's explore the possibilities of each feature…

Rich Digital Content: **Easy Rich Media** (YouTube, Flickr, Slideshare)

Blackboard Classroom provides a simple way for teachers to add multimedia to a class without having to create it themselves. It's a great way to engage students without draining your time and resources.
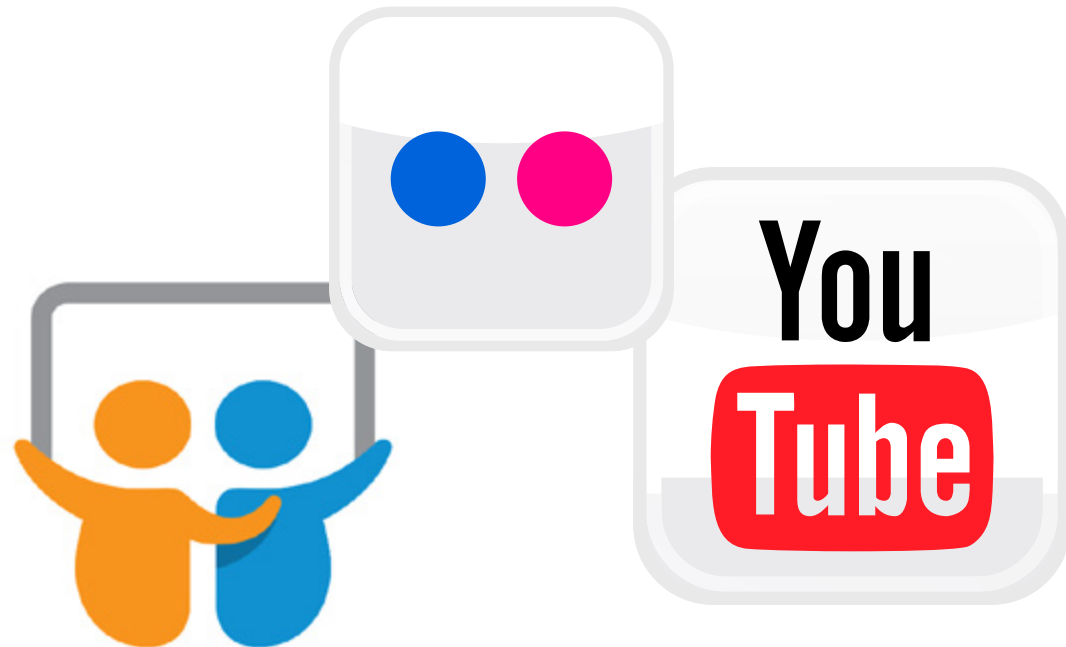
Rich Digital Content: Interactive Video

Blackboard Classroom provides more options for teachers to easily add rich, interactive digital media to a class. Teachers have the ability to record, embed, and add interactivity to video in their classroom. Teachers can create rich, interactive flipped lessons for use within class or at home.
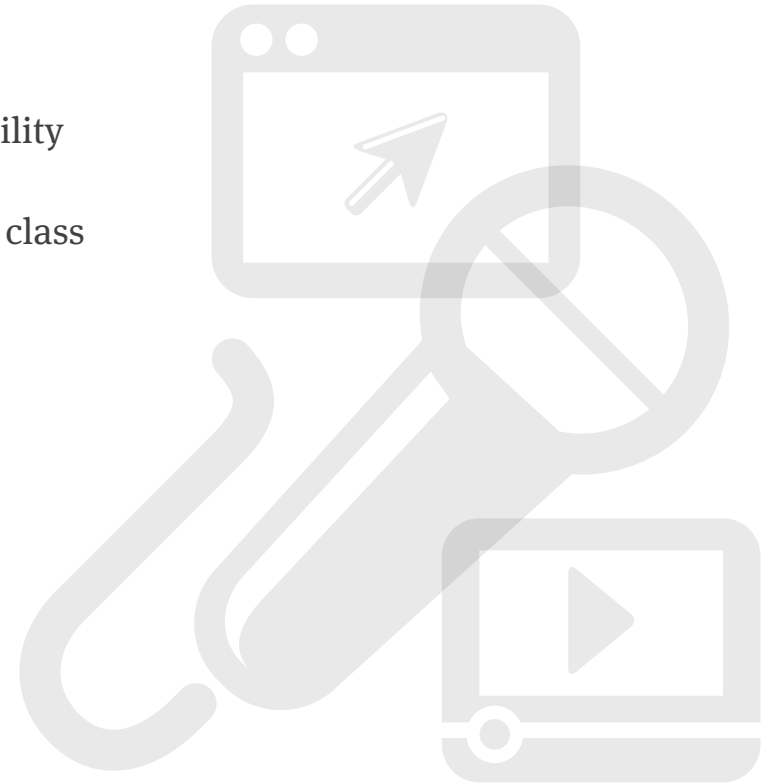
Explore interactive video possibilities >>

Rich Digital Content: Blackboard Open Content

Blackboard Open Content is a cloud-based global learning object repository that integrates with LMS environments via open standards. More than just a repository, Blackboard Open Content enables your teachers to author, share, discover, and copyright learning objects, including standards-aligned digital content. And it delivers this content through the LMS environment they already use.
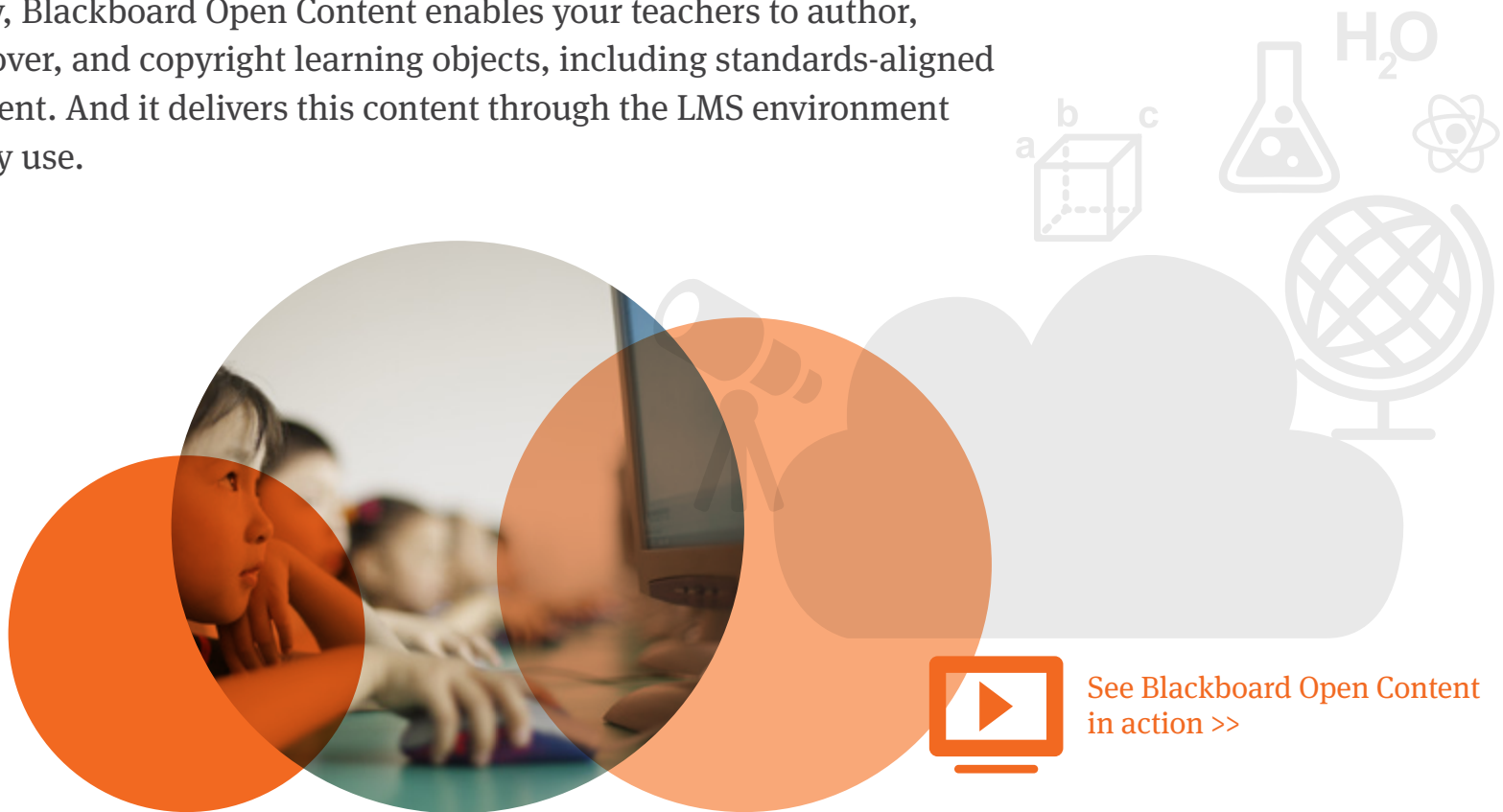
See Blackboard Open Content in action >>

Rich Digital Content: Content Editor

Blackboard's Content Editor puts adding video, images, and audio to a course at teachers' fingertips. They don't have to leave Blackboard to access multimedia—it's all right there within their LMS—so they can easily create engaging course content and share it with their students without involving your IT department.

Rich Digital Content: Partnerships

Learn how Blackboard Digital Content Partners can help your school blend >>

Rich Digital Content: Standards Alignment

Blackboard Classroom's standards alignment feature enables teachers to easily align class content to relevant state standards. They can demonstrate how their class is meeting standards, provide instructional insight into the purpose of learning activities for students, and build the foundation for standards-based performance reporting.

In a blended learning environment, teachers can view the standards that are aligned with class content and activities, and use that insight to drive instruction.

Collaborate

Foster class collaboration for authentic learning with discussions, wikis, and synchronous learning.

With the right digital tools, blended learning provides the perfect opportunity for teachers to create authentic learning experiences through content and class collaboration. Discussions, wikis and sychronous collaboration tools in Blackboard Classroom truly engage students and are easily graded.

1 out of 5 high school students uses digital tools to support collaborative writing.

37%

37% of high school students report they use social media to work on projects with classmates.

Easy options for creating a collaborative classroom

Blackboard offers several tools to foster collaboration in a blended classroom.

Dicussions
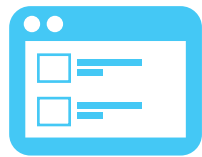
Synchronous Learning

Wikis

Let's explore the possibilities of each feature...

Collaborative Tools: Discussions

The Discussions tool often becomes a very important part of the online aspect of a blended classroom. Students can express their ideas, gather feedback and get help with refining their opinions and plans. Because students have the opportunity to contemplate before posting, more thoughtful conversations evolve.

Within Discussions, teachers can:

› Observe students demonstrating their grasp of the material, exchanging ideas, debating topics, asking questions, and working in groups

› Moderate, evaluate, and even grade discussion posts

Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Getting started

Teachers can easily start using Discussions.
**See how simple it is to promote collaboration online:**

1. Teachers create a forum for open questions and commentary and include class content, process questions, and embed rich media from Content Editor

2. Students see the teacher's responses to their classmates' questions

3. Students chime in with answers, collaborating to enhance learning for the entire class

Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Suggested Uses

The sky is the limit when it comes to using Discussions.
Here are some of our favorite ways to use this collaborative tool:

1. **Class questions:** Both teacher and students respond to questions in an open forum.
2. **Real-life examples:** Students demonstrate class concepts by contributing examples from their lives, from the media, or from popular culture to an open forum. Students must include a photo, video, or link to an article, identify the concept, and explain the connection to the example. Students must also respond to at least one classmate.
3. **Debate:** Students post and support an argument, then provide a counterpoint or a supporting point to at least one other classmate.
4. **KWL:** Teacher asks students what they know about a particular topic and what they want to learn before a topic is studied. Throughout the lesson, students add to the discussion about what they're learning.
5. **Brainstorming:** Teacher creates a discussion prompt to stimulate brainstorming in class.
6. **Open-ended questions:** Teacher poses open-ended questions with students to start a discussion.
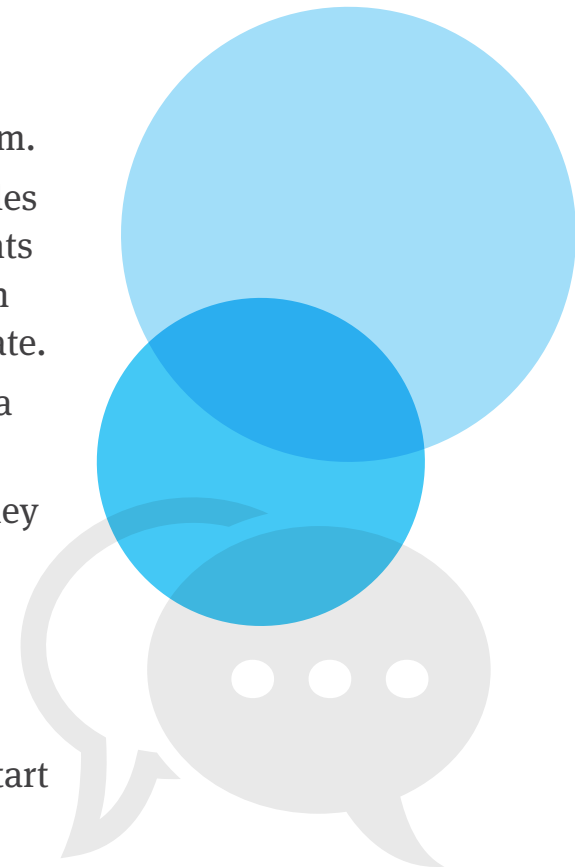
Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Classroom Example

An AP Psychology teacher who used Blackboard solutions often utilized class discussions for students to publish projects. Students would post their projects to the discussions, incorporating photos, videos, and other digital media. The whole class could see, review, and comment on any project/post.

The teacher found that students cared about how their classmates would judge their project, so they would put more time, effort, and creativity into their work. The projects became social experiences via the class blog.

The teacher used Interactive Rubrics to efficiently grade each project outside class time and provide quality feedback to students.

Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Classroom Example
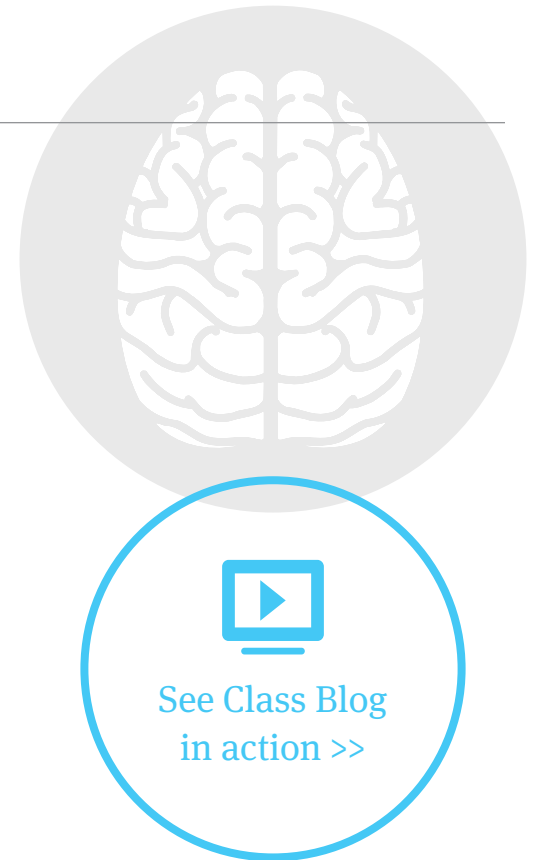
Using a discussion to conduct class projects

PROJECT 1: MAMMALIAN BRAIN DISSECTION

Challenge: Conduct a six-stage lab dissection and its assessment in one day of face-to-face class time.

How they did it: The teacher created labels on toothpicks for her students to label brain structures in each stage. Working in pairs, students took digital pictures of each stage of their dissection with a phone or digital camera. Then they shared their dissection on the class discussion.

Result: Instead of frantically moving through the lab to assess each of the six stages for each pair of students (roughly 15 pairs per period), the teacher was able to walk around and help facilitate the dissection live in the classroom. Students enjoyed documenting the experience with photos and sharing it with their family and friends

Assessment: The teacher used the Interactive Rubric to grade efficiently, outside class time, and to provide better, quality feedback to her students.

See Class Blog in action >>

Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Classroom Example

Using a discussion to conduct class projects

PROJECT 2: BREAKING SOCIAL NORMS

Challenge: Think creatively about how to break a norm and break it, then report reactions.

How they did it: Students did things like stand backwards in an elevator, wear pajamas to church, or go jogging in a suit and tie. They shared their stories on the Class Blog.

Result: A collection of wonderfully creative experiences with interesting reflections related to social norms.

Assessment: Students commented on each other's entries, and the teacher graded their contributions with Interactive Rubrics.

Collaborative Tools: Discussions—Classroom Example

Teachers can spark student collaboration and creativity in various ways using discussions. Here are a few of our favorite student activities:

1. **Class collections:** Add examples supported by images or other media *(Example: "My favorite mammal")*
2. **Case studies:** Interpret a case study
3. **Analysis:** Analyze a topic
4. **Reflection:** Reflect upon the day or week's lesson/topic
5. **Debate:** Deliver an argument and supporting evidence
6. **Idea gathering:** Vet ideas for projects and papers.

Collaborative Tools: Wikis

Wikis allow students to contribute and modify pages of course-related material in a collaborative area. As students construct knowledge, the teacher acts as a facilitator rather than the provider of all class content. Wikis necessitate collaboration as students build upon each other's contributions and refine their final work.

With Wikis, students can:

› Create new content

› Edit existing content

› View revisions and provide comments
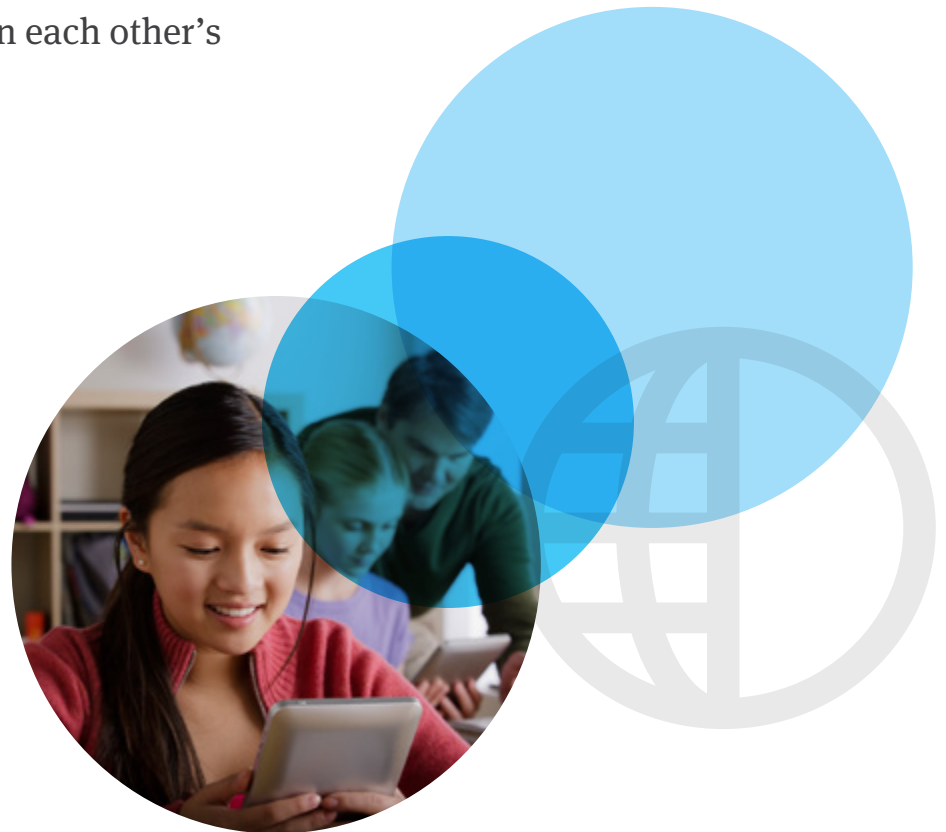
Collaborative Tools: Wikis—Classroom Example

Using Wikis to promote classroom interaction

PROJECT: DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Challenge: Showcase examples of developmental psychology concepts from real life.

How they did it: Students chose three concepts from the lesson and shared examples via written explanations and photos or video posted to the class wiki page.

Result: Students loved seeing baby pictures of their classmates and reading how the concepts from class related to each example.

Assessment: The teacher graded her students' wiki contributions with the interactive rubric (covered within the assessment lesson).

Collaborative Tools: Wikis—Suggested Uses

Wikis can promote class interaction and group thinking in various ways.
Here are a few of our favorite collaborative Wiki activities:

1. **Collections:** Students contribute examples of concepts or topics on dedicated wiki pages (i.e. pictures/words that start with a certain letter for Kindergarten or 1st grade or examples from the news to reflect concepts in a math or science class).

2. **Final Exam Review:** Students build study guide for final exam

3. **Jigsaw Method:** Teacher divides class into small groups to present a topic on which each team becomes expert via a wiki

4. **Outlines:** Students outline a chapter

5. **Cliffs Notes:** Students create "Cliff's Notes" for literary works

6. **Resource Repository:** Class collects resources on a topic

7. **Group Project Presentations:** Groups build and present projects

8. **Research Notebooks:** Students collaboratively produce a research notebook

9. **Story Writing:** Class or small groups write collaboratively

10. **Problem Solving:** Students solve problems, scenarios, and case studies
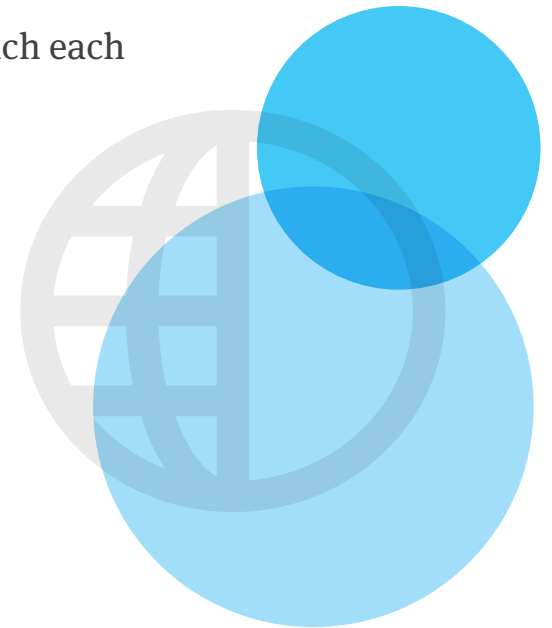
Grading Discussions and Wikis Inline

Inline grading makes these collaborative tools even more valuable within blended learning as forms of authentic assessment.

Collaborative Tools: Synchronous Learning

Transform Learning with Real Time Collaboration

1. Offer on-the-go professional development

2. Provide anytime, anywhere connectivity

3. Embrace flipped learning

4. Engage learners on their devices

5. Maximize personalized learning

Check out the full Infographic
& 5 Ways Guide for
Synchronous Learning >>

Flip

Differentiate instruction
to make the most out of class time

Flipped lessons allow teachers to completely personalize instruction based on students' ability and their progress toward learning objectives. To flip, the teacher records a lesson using Blackboard or an outside application for students to watch independently, in small groups, or as a class.

61%

61% of blended learning teachers in Lawrence Public Schools use Blackboard to flip lessons in order to differentiate instruction

75%

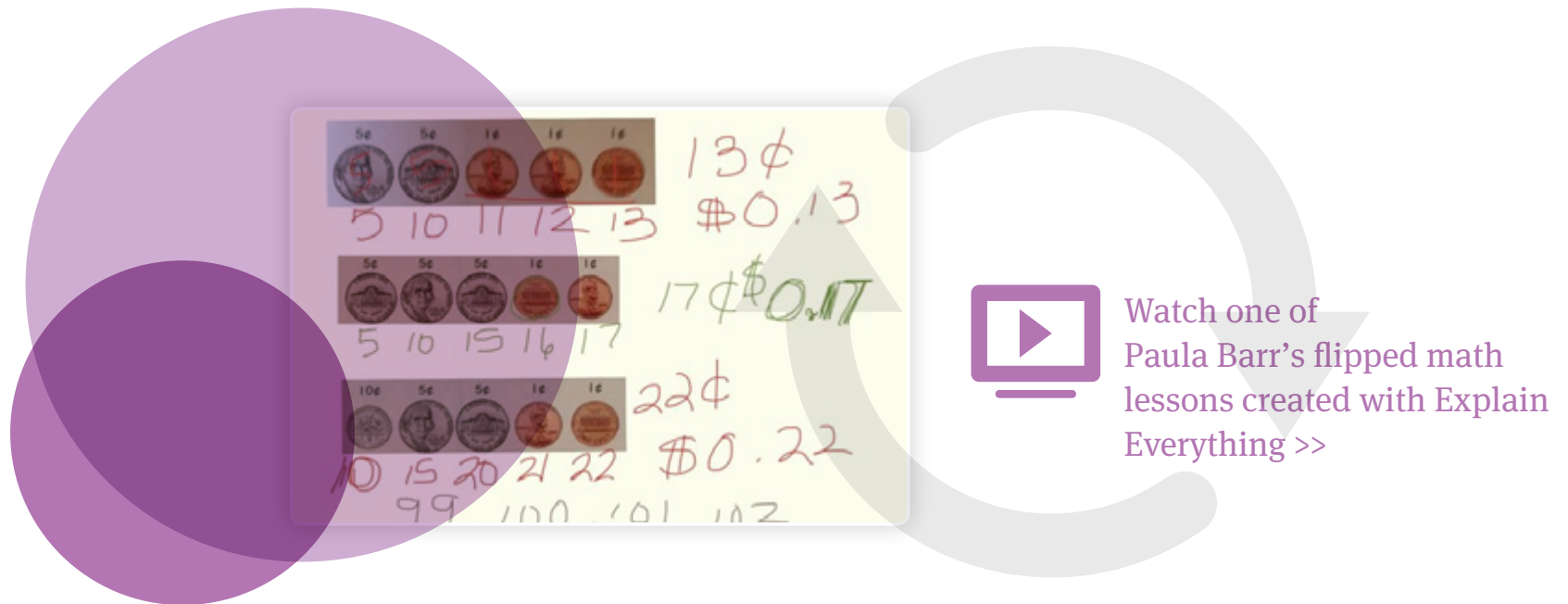75% of middle and high school students agree that flipped learning would be a good way for them to learn

One out of six math and science teachers are implementing a flipped learning model using videos that they have created or sourced online

Source: Lawrence Public Schools, Blended Teacher Survey, 2014

Source: Project Tomorrow, 2013 Speak Up Survey

Source: Project Tomorrow, 2013 Speak Up Survey

Blackboard

In focus: A flipped classroom

Paula Barr, a teaching veteran of 32 years, just completed her first year of blended learning. Paula creates flipped lessons of her second-grade math curriculum to help her differentiate instruction and meet her students at their level. Paula feels more fulfilled and excited than ever about her teaching career.

Watch one of Paula Barr's flipped math lessons created with Explain Everything >>

Easy options for recording a flipped lesson

So many applications exist to help teachers create, record, and edit media and enhance blended learning. And they're all flexible and intuitive for teachers to use.

Teachers can record lessons using Blackboard Classroom tools, or they can use outside applications and publish their recording within Blackboard Classroom for student use.

Let's explore the possibilities of each feature.

Flipped Lessons: Blackboard Collaborate

Collaborate is core feature of Blackboard Classroom. Collaborate provides full web-conferencing for your classroom, built for learning! Collaborate enhances digital earning by providing synchronous learning opportunities and an all-in-one flipped classroom solution.

Teachers can use Collaborate to:
› Host live review sessions
› Teach a live lesson on a snow day
› Engage their students with real time voice and video discussions
› Record lessons and publish them in the digital classroom
› Teach a class from home
› Allow a homebound student to participate in class
› Bring a remote guest speaker to class

Districts can use Collaborate to:
› Offer professional development
› Host web meetings
› Provide employee training
› Conduct board meetings

Learn more about Collaborate >>

Flipped Lessons: Content Editor

This core Blackboard Classroom feature allows teachers to imbed rich media like video, images, audio, posts, and wikis to a course. They don't have to leave Blackboard Classroom to access multimedia created in other applications like Explain Everything or Jing—it's all right there within their LMS. So they can easily create engaging course content and share it with their students.

Flipped Lessons: Interactive Video

Creating interactive video within Blackboard Classroom is a great way to engage students in flipped learning. Whether a teacher wants to make her class welcome more engaging, post a video announcement, or capture a full lesson while checking for understanding, interactive video is a simple, awesome answer.

Explore interactive flipped lessons >>

Flipped Lessons: Explain Everything

This user-friendly screencasting, design, and interactive whiteboard tool allows teachers to annotate, animate, narrate, import, and export almost anything to and from most applications.

Explain Everything
Morris & Cooke

Available on the App Store - Get it >>

See Explain Everything in action >>

Flipped Lessons: TechSmith: Jing and Camtasia

Jing

This free application by TechSmith provides an easy way for teachers to create and share snapshot images and short videos of their computer screen, like a short PowerPoint or Prezi presentation.

Camtasia

If your teachers want to do more, Camtasia, also by TechSmith, provides easy screen recording and video editing capabilities so they can explain by showing and interacting on nearly any device.
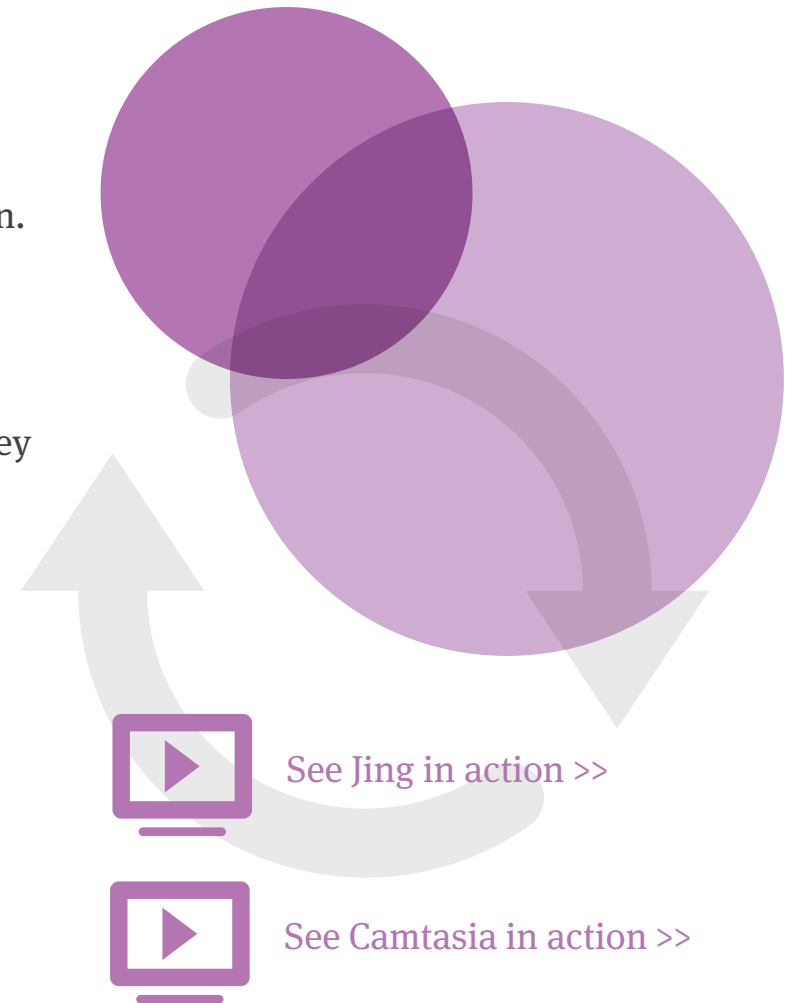
See Jing in action >>

See Camtasia in action >>

Assess

Authentically assess students with tests, assignments, or collaborative tools

Efficient grading and prompt feedback are so critical to student success. Blackboard Classroom gives teachers the ability to easily create authentic formative or summative assessments using tests or assignments, which helps create more, quality class time.

58%

40%

33%

58% of school site admin and 54% of teachers agree that they regularly use formative assessment data about their student's strengths and weaknesses to tailor instruction and lessons to meet individual student needs.

40% of district admin said they piloted some online assessments last school year and 21% are ready to implement online assessments this school year.

33% of tech leaders feel competency or master based curriculum and assessments should be considered most important when evaluating the quality of online course to use in their district.

Source: **2014** Project Tomorrow, Speak Up Data

In focus: An assessed classroom

An AP Psychology teacher struggled to find enough class time to cover every topic throughout the school year while preparing her students for the high-stakes AP Psychology exam at the end of the year. To create more class time and provide unlimited test practice, she used question pools and random blocks.

Challenge: Prepare students for AP Psychology exam

How she did it: The teacher imported all ExamView question banks into Blackboard Classroom as question pools. Next, she created a series of cumulative practice tutorials for each topic, drawing questions randomly from the appropriate pools. She timed each assessment to simulate the actual AP exam. The gradebook counted the score of each student's highest submission.

Result: As a class, 25% more students passed the AP Psychology exam than in previous years after the teacher made the practice tutorials an optional assignment. She created more class time to explore concepts in innovative ways, and students who needed more exam practice got it without taking up valuable class time.

Easy options for creating assessments

Assessments can easily be integrated into blended learning through various tools.
Let's explore the possibilities of each feature.

1. **Practice spelling tests:** What parent would not welcome a way to automate spelling practice? For example, a first grade teacher can create practice spelling tests using the fill-in-the-blank question type by creating tests students can take as many times as they like at school or at home

2. **Reading checks:** Teachers can have students complete short answer, essay, or multiple choice questions on their own to ensure they come to class prepared

3. **Summative assessment:** Teachers can create and deliver summative assessments such as chapter or unit tests. They save time with automated grading for objective questions and promote academic honesty with randomized questions, time limits, question at a time delivery, or drawing questions randomly from a question pool

4. **Project-based learning:** Teachers can use assignment to collect and assess any type of digital project from their students. Students can use the Content Editor or submit any file types (such as Word, PDF, PowerPoint, Excel, Video or Audio Files) to their teacher.

Make the Most of Assements

Creating Assessments

Blackboard Classroom quizzes is a powerful option for formative and summative assessment in a blended classroom.

Creating Question Pools & Randomized Questions

Question pools and randomizing questions bring additional power to Blackboard Classroom assessments enhancing the possibilities of blended learning even more.
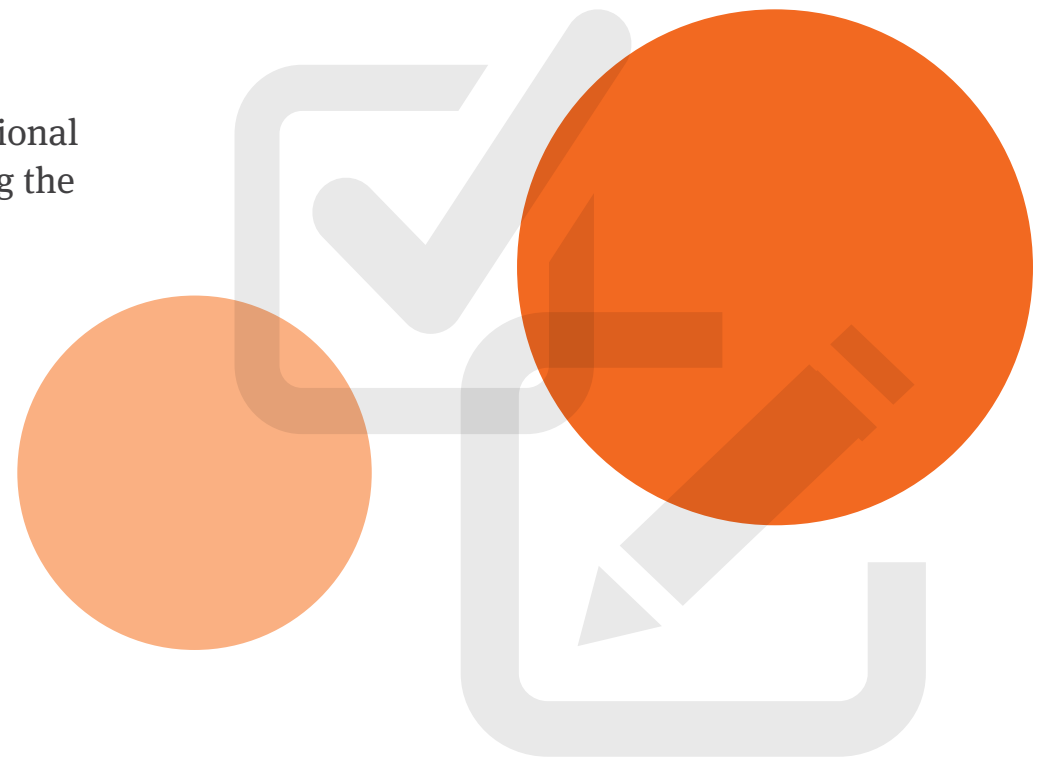
Assessment Possibilities

When incorporated into blended learning tools, assessments open up the possibilities for greater student success. Blackboard Classroom provides several options to authentically assess students in addition to tests.

› Quizzes

› Assignments

› Portfolio Assignments

› Discussions and wikis

› Live Classroom Participation

› Interactive Rubrics

Other Assessment Options

Teachers can greatly benefit from using any gradable assessments within Blackboard.
Let's take a deeper look at each of these assessment tools on the following pages.

› Inline Assessment Grading

› Competencies Dashboard

› Standards Reporting

› Interactive Rubrics

› Mobile Grading

› Learning Analytics

Other Assessment Options: Inline Assignment Grading

Inline grading saves teachers time by providing an efficient and consistent workflow within the web browser. So teachers can grade, provide feedback, and leverage rubrics without having to leave their LMS.

Blackboard

Other Assessment Options: Competencies Dashboard

The competencies dashboard enables teachers to ensure students are on target in their blended classrooms and empowers students to take ownership in their learning with standards insights.

Other Assessment Options: Standards Reporting

Blended teachers can use powerful standards-based reporting to identify student needs, inform instructional decisions, and improve student achievement.

Explore Intelliboard Analytics
(A Core Component of Blackboard Classroom): >>

Blackboard

Other Assessment Options: Interactive Rubrics

Teachers can provide prompt, accurate, and rich feedback to their students in a timely manner using grading rubrics to enhance efficiency in the grading process.

Other Assessment Options: Mobile Grading

Responsive design enables teachers to grade assignment submissions from their tablet or iPad. Teachers can stay on top of grading on the go.
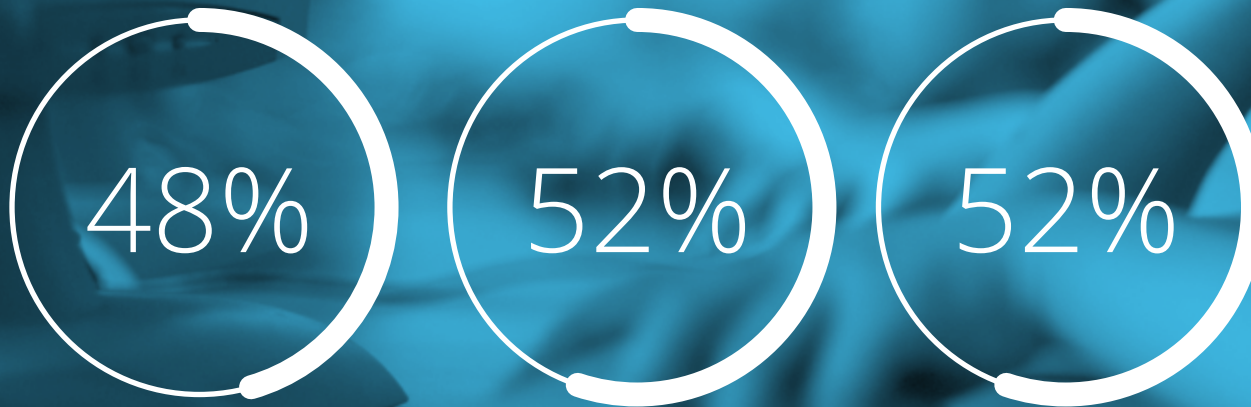
CHAPTER 6:

Communicate

Communicate effectively with students and parents through mobile learning

Effective communication between teachers, students, and parents enhances the possibilities of blended learning. When everyone has important information at their fingertips, students are more likely to succeed.

48%

52%

52%

48% of parents, 52% of teachers, and 52% of principals feel that mobile learning improves school to home communications

Source: Project Tomorrow, 2013 Speak Up Survey

Blackboard

Easy options for maximizing communication

Blackboard Classroom simplifies school-to-home communication.
Let's explore the possibilities of each feature.

1. **Automated Communications:** Teachers can instantly become "super teachers" leveraging the power of Blackboard Classroom's Personalized Learning Designer that boosts teacher productivity with automated, personalize communications at just the right time.

2. **Announcements:** Teachers can post announcements to the class, even on-the go. Students can receive announcements in Blackboard Classroom or on the go with personalized push notifications.

3. **Calendar:** When teachers set assessment due dates, assignments, tests, and quizzes, they automatically appear on the class calendar and link to the right content for easy access so students can stay on track.

4. **Push Notifications:** Students can personalize their push notifications so they never forget to study for a test or miss an assignment.
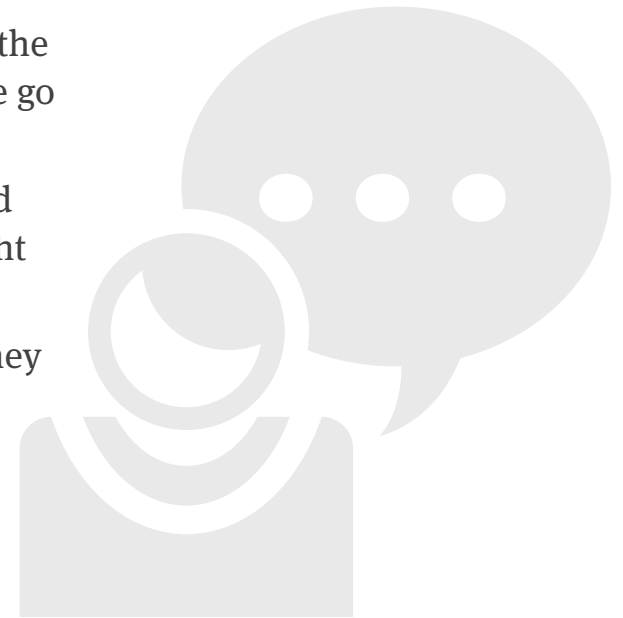
Additional Resources

Learn more about the Blackboard Classroom.

See how Lawrence Public Schools is disrupting the factory model with blended learning.

Learn how Metro Nashville Public Schools is evolving as a digital district.

Check out three teachers' journeys toward student-centric classrooms.

If you're ready to start blending, we're ready to help.

Contact us today to get started. 800.424.9299

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About Blackboard

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