

BlendEd

Blended learning is an educational model that combines traditional face-to-face/distance classroom methods with online delivery and participation; and an element of student control over time, place, path, and pace.



BlendEd Components

Learning Object Repository (LOR) Content System

A statewide digital content repository (Safari Montage) for existing and future collections of multimedia learning objects and course materials of all types (e.g. audio, video, digital images, textual)—standards-aligned and appropriately cataloged and classified

Learning Management System (LMS)

A statewide learning management system allowing teachers and students to access, create, organize instructional content; perform testing; support collaborative learning activities; and deliver instruction to students

Federated Directory Services System (LDAP)

A statewide directory services structure that facilitates single sign-on access to all instructional resources for every teacher and learner

Statewide Professional Development (PD) System

A comprehensive system of professional development to provide technology-assisted instructional design training, embedded professional development, and PD content shared between and among the NDE, ESUCC, higher education and other educational partners

Evaluative System

A persistent system of assessment and analytics that enables the diagnosis of specific student achievement problems and the identification of curriculum or teacher shortages (e.g. science, technology, engineering, mathematics, English language learners, credit recovery, advanced placement, etc).

The Nebraska BlendEd eLearning System

The goal of Nebraska's BlendEd eLearning System is to implement instructional and content technologies to enhance teaching and learning to improve learning outcomes for students of all ages.

Implementation of the BlendEd eLearning System will enable teachers and students to access, create, and share learning objects and other educational content that will enrich and deepen the learning experiences available to all Nebraska students.

Blended education has been promoted by educational researchers as one of the most promising recent innovations to access and develop content for 1) a traditional face-to-face classroom; 2) an existing video distance learning classroom; or 3) students outside the confines of the classroom and the normal school day. Blended education allows flexibility in access and delivery to include support for traditional face-to-face (synchronous) instruction and on-line (asynchronous) instruction and allows for any time, any place, any path, any pace learning. This will expand learning opportunities for students in high demand areas, including the STEM subjects (i.e. science, technology, engineering, and math) and the world languages.

This project will encourage educational entities to collaborate and establish a plan of action to promote the appropriate adoption of these instructional tools, technologies, and associated instructional techniques. Implementation will include strategic phases of capacity building to reach the greatest number of teachers and students in the most effective manner possible. The BlendEd services will build on the successes of the network bandwidth made possible through partnerships established by Network Nebraska. The project will also enhance the hundreds of synchronous courses already being successfully exchanged through the Nebraska Virtual Instruction Source. (<http://nvis.esucc.org>)

The Nebraska BlendEd Initiative will truly be a 'blend' of efforts by partners from education, business, state government and charitable foundations working together to advance learning outcomes to produce career and college ready graduates.

For more information—

BlendEd Co-chairs:

Beth Kabes, bkabes@esu7.org;

Craig Hicks, chicks@esu13.org;

Linda Dickeson, ldickes@lps.org

