School Year 2013-2014

Blended Learning Executive Summary

Educational Technology and Library Media Services
Office of Teaching and Learning
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Overview of Blended Learning and its Role in DCPS

District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is focused on innovative learning models to aid teachers in improving student outcomes across all subject areas. DCPS is committed to creating the highest-performing urban school district in the country and has prioritized the implementation of blended learning models to drive student achievement.

**Blended Learning Defined**
Blended learning refers to a group of instructional models that mix face-to-face classroom teaching and online instruction (see figure below). These models engage students in learning, provide teachers with actionable data for more targeted, personalized instruction, and allow schools to extend learning beyond the traditional classroom. Blended learning accelerates student learning to reach academic goals.

**Blended Learning in DCPS**
DCPS has launched more than a dozen blended learning initiatives focused on a variety of content areas including language development, literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages. Content specialists have researched and vetted the most powerful and proven products in the market that are aligned with district curriculum and academic goals. Attached is a list of rich digital content that supports instruction and is used in blended learning models to transform teaching and learning in DC Public Schools. Every product listed is accessible by students from home, library, or any location with internet access.

In addition to the targeted content-specific programs, DCPS has also engaged in whole-school redesigns to create entire blended learning schools. These schools are connected via feeder patterns, so that students in a blended learning school will have continuous access to a blended learning experience across their K-12 careers.
## DCPS Blended Learning Portfolio for School Year 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th># of schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexia</td>
<td>Literacy focus: phonics</td>
<td>preK-5</td>
<td>60-90 min/week, achieved by 15-20 min sessions in literacy block</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myON</td>
<td>Literacy focus: e-libraries</td>
<td>preK-8</td>
<td>60 min/week, achieved by 15-20 min sessions in literacy block</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MATHEMATICS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First in Math</td>
<td>Math focus: fact fluency</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>50 min/week, usually achieved by 10 min/ day</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Math</td>
<td>Math focus: conceptual and non-verbal learning; problem solving</td>
<td>Used K-5, content range: K-8</td>
<td>Two 45-min sessions per week</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think Through Math</td>
<td>Math focus: problem-solving skills; word problems</td>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>Two 45-min or three 30-min sessions per week</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach to One (TTO)</td>
<td>Adaptive math curriculum</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>90 minutes per day</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Classrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORLD LANGUAGES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosetta Stone</td>
<td>World language supplement</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>90 minutes per week</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Education Techbooks</td>
<td>Social studies and science digital textbooks</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>At least three times a week during lesson</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SOFTWARE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Learn</td>
<td>Learning management system and online course platform</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>As needed for instruction &amp; student engagement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(page 13)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Education Online</td>
<td>Electronic resources for all content areas; Health resources in lieu of textbooks</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>As needed for instruction</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmodo</td>
<td>Safer social networking</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>As needed for instruction</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATO Learning</td>
<td>Credit recovery; remediation and acceleration; diagnostic for reading and math; test prep for the ACT, SAT</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TextHELP Read &amp; Write Gold</td>
<td>Electronic tool for decoding, reading comprehension, translation, research, and screen reading</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>As needed for instruction and accessibility</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Overview
Lexia Reading is a literacy intervention that creates an individualized learning path for each student and adapts instruction according to his/her responses. It delivers Common Core-aligned content in the six domains of reading (phonics, phonological awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension, and structural analysis) and features complex scaffolding, re-teaching, and branching techniques.

### Status
New pilot for SY 13-14

### Schools
16 elementary schools and education campuses: Amidon-Bowen, Bancroft, Beers, Hendley, Ketcham, King, Malcolm X, Moten, Murch, Nalle, Payne, Plummer, Randle-Highlands, Savoy, Seaton, Wheatley

### Website
[www.lexiacore5.com](http://www.lexiacore5.com)

### Preview

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lexia Reading Core 5</td>
<td>Literacy focus: phonics</td>
<td>PreK-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Lexia Reading Core 5 Preview](image)
### Program
- **myON Reader**

### Target
- Literacy focus: e-library

### Grades
- PreK-8

### Overview
myON Reader features over 5,000 digital books for readers of all levels. Students select texts aligned with their interests and Lexile level, giving them ownership of their reading experience. Teachers can also assign content to align with in-class instruction. End-of-text assessments measure students’ Lexile growth, while audio supports help them conquer difficult texts. Approximately 10% of the myON library is available in Spanish.

### Status
New pilot for SY 13-14 (launched February 2014)

### Schools

### Website
[www.myon.com](http://www.myon.com)

### Preview

![Ninth Ward Preview](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First in Math Online</td>
<td>Math focus: fact fluency</td>
<td>K-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overview

First in Math provides deep practice necessary for skill retention. Activities increase fact fluency with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. The program provides differentiated instruction with extensive content ranging from one-step addition to multi-step algebra, plus measurement, geometry, and trigonometry.

### Status

Second year of implementation

### Schools


### Website

[www.firstinmath.com](http://www.firstinmath.com)

### Preview

![First in Math Online](image)
### Overview

The ST Math program uses the learners’ spatial-temporal (ST) reasoning abilities to explain, understand, and solve multi-step math problems. Students learn by visualizing the concepts of math, rather than relying on rote memorization. The program introduces math concepts without language, numbers, or symbols, making it an excellent fit for English language learners and students with special needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Added grades 1-2, expanded number of schools to 45 for SY 14-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>33 Elementary Schools and Education Campuses: Amidon-Bowen, Bancroft, Beers, Brightwood, Browne, Cooke, Drew, Garfield, CW Harris, Hendley, Hearst, Houston, Ketcham, Kimball, Lafayette, Langley, LaSalle-Backus, Leckie, Ludlow-Taylor, Malcolm X, Mamie D. Lee, Miner, Nalle, Patterson, Powell, Randle-Highlands, Raymond, Savoy, Shepherd, Simon, Stanton, Takoma, Truesdell, Turner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Website Login Information | www.stmath.com  
mindresearch.net > Click “About MIND” > Click on “Tour” or “Games” |

**Program**

- **ST Math**

**Target**

- **Math focus:** conceptual and non-verbal learning

**Grades**

- K-5
Think Through Math (TTM) focuses on building problem-solving skills, especially with word problems, and covers content from 3rd grade through Algebra I. The program also offers artificial-intelligence-based avatars and access to live, online certified math teachers to further support both students and teachers.

**Status**
Targeted use this year as an enrichment to support proficient and advanced students

**Schools**
13 Education Campuses, Middle Schools, and High Schools: Anacostia, Brightwood, Browne, Burroughs, Eliot-Hine, Jefferson, Johnson, Kelly Miller, McKinley MS, Ross, Takoma, Truesdell, Walker-Jones

**Website**
www.thinkthroughmath.com
### Teach to One (TTO) New Classrooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Teach to One (TTO) New Classrooms</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Adaptive Math curriculum</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>6-8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Overview**

New Classrooms employs a unique instructional model that allows each student to access multiple learning modalities. The model includes small group instruction, student-driven centers, virtual instruction from a tutor, and independent practice using adaptive software. Each day, teachers receive a rotation list with notes on which students need which topics re-taught. Similarly, at the beginning of class, each student receives a personalized "playlist" of his or her activities for the day, based on the previous day's assessment.

**Status**

Modified classroom layout, student schedules, and diagnostic assessments to improve student experience

**Schools**

Hart MS

**Website**

[www.newclassrooms.org](http://www.newclassrooms.org)

**Preview**

![Classroom scene with students using laptops and working in groups.](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosetta Stone</td>
<td>World language supplement</td>
<td>3-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overview**

Rosetta Stone is a world language program that offers an immersive language experience for speaking, listening, and writing. Through Rosetta Stone, DCPS students at pilot schools get exposure in Spanish, French, Chinese, English, and other languages to support world language programs where there may not be an instructor at a school.

**Status**

Expansion after initial pilot in SY 12-13

**Schools**

17 locations: Brightwood, Cardozo MS, CHEC, Deal, Hearst, HIP, IYP, LaSalle-Backus, McKinley, Phelps, Ross, SWW, Shepherd, Stoddert, Wash Met, Wheatley

**Website**

[www.dcpublicschools.rosettastoneclassroom.com](http://www.dcpublicschools.rosettastoneclassroom.com)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Education Techbooks</td>
<td>Social Studies and Science digital textbooks</td>
<td>6-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Overview
Sixth through ninth grade science and social studies classes are using digital “techbooks” in lieu of traditional textbooks. These resources include tiered reading modules, an interactive glossary, the ability to highlight and annotate online, a board builder program in which students can either work independently or collaboratively with classmates to demonstrate mastery of concepts, and an assessment maker/ tracker. Teachers can also find exemplary 5E lesson plans by unit and topic with standards aligned to the DC curriculum.

### Status
New pilot for SY 13-14

### Schools
Anacostia, Burroughs, CHEC, SWW@FS, Wheatley

### Website
[www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com)

### Preview
![Preview](image-url)
Overview
Blackboard Learn is an online learning management system, allowing teachers to put their course materials and grades online for student access. Documents, graphics, videos, textbook software, and a myriad of other types of content can be embedded within the course. Course material created by teachers may be used again, or even within other Blackboard courses. Teachers may also access content from other districts using Blackboard. Blackboard Learn is also used as a professional development course delivery system.

Status
New pilot for SY 13-14

Schools
Deal MS, Eastern HS, McKinley EC, and SWW

Website
dcpublicschools.blackboard.com
Overview
PLATO addresses needs for credit recovery, remediation, and acceleration in grades 6-12. For credit recovery, all core courses are aligned with DCPS scope and sequence documents to mirror concepts taught in the traditional classroom. The Accucess feature assesses a student’s skill gaps and assigns an individualized learning path. Test preparation for the SAT and ACT are also available.

Status
Used for summer bridge and Evening Credit Recovery (ECR)

Schools
All HS and MS

Website & Login
ple.platoweb.com
## Overview
Read & Write Gold is a literacy support software toolbar that integrates with applications, allowing individuals to access reading, writing, studying, and research support tools from within programs the student uses every day. Aligns with PARCC accessibility tools.

### Features
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text-to-speech</td>
<td>Calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen masking</td>
<td>Highlighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking Dictionary</td>
<td>Homophone Check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Dictionary</td>
<td>Phonetic Spellcheck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>Voice Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word Prediction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status
Available to all schools with grades 6-12 since SY 11-12

### Schools
All

### Website & Login
http://www.texthelp.com/North-America/our-products/readwrite
Please call OCTO for setup and installation on your PC/MAC
Program
Discovery Education

Target
Electronic resource for all content areas

Grades
All

Overview
Discovery Education offers a comprehensive K-12 library of digital resources that enables seamless integration of standards-based videos into classroom lessons. It offers videos and resources from award-winning producers such as Discovery Education, Discovery School, Standard Deviants, Weston Woods and more. Used in lieu of health textbooks.

Status
Available to selected schools for SY 11-12; expanded to all schools for 12-13

Schools
All

Website
www.discoveryeducation.com

Preview
**Edmodo**

**Program**

Edmodo

**Target**

Safe social networking

**Grades**

6-12

**Overview**

Edmodo is a safer and closed-access social networking site that allows teachers to create groups for each of their classes. Students are able to use the social networking site in a carefully monitored and secure environment to take assessments, post links, connect with their teacher, receive and submit assignments, and much more.

**Status**

Available to all schools

**Schools**

Actively used by teachers at about 30 schools; 485 teachers, 4000 students and 120 parents

**Website & Login**

http://dcpublicschools.edmodo.com/

Anyone can create an account

**Preview**

Mr. Park to DCPS Edmodo Playground

Discovery Links work!

I just watched Sharks via Discovery Education

app.discoveryeducation.com

[2 reactions]

Ms. Britt to DCPS Edmodo Playground

This is pretty cool! Watch these kids explain why they like coding.

presentation.mp4 - Google Drive

docs.google.com

[1 reaction]
Spotlights in Blended Learning

Ketcham and Randle Highlands Elementary Schools

DCPS has partnered with blended learning implementation experts Education Elements to design right-fit blended learning models for Ketcham and Randle Highlands Elementary Schools. Both schools received additional technology and professional development to implement a classroom station-rotation model. Students move through three rotations in established literacy and mathematics blocks.

- **Group One:** students access personalized lessons on their skill level via computer software
- **Group Two:** students engage in independent reading, word study, fluency, peer-to-peer collaboration, or math stations
- **Group Three:** students receive direct instruction or small group work with the teacher, informed by various data sets

Teachers participated in content selection and both schools received licenses for high-quality reading and math digital content, including ST Math, iReady Math, Lexia, and myON reader. The schools also share a Technology Instructional Coach (TIC) who assists teachers with analyzing student data generated from the blended learning programs and who provides professional development on best practices in blended learning and technology integration.
Lessons learned from the pilot thus far:

- Professional development for fall implementations should start in the spring, when possible, and/or for a dedicated week in the summer. This allows for exploration of blended learning as a model, as well as time to select and learn digital content.
- When ordering large quantities of technology for pilots, increase lead time to account for defective equipment, missing cables, or other unforeseen challenges.
- During pre-service week, build in time to explicitly establish what routines teachers will use to transition between stations in the classroom.
- Especially in the early stages of the launch, teachers who have not taught using stations should get additional support in aligning student work in all rotations.
- If you have additional staff supporting the model (instructional aides, paraprofessionals, City Year volunteers, etc.), make sure they attend the blended learning professional development so they can be maximized in the classroom instead of passive observers or computer lab overseers.
Hart Middle School
In partnership with New Classrooms, a New York City-based non-profit, DCPS has redesigned middle school mathematics education at Hart Middle School. Using daily analytics, an innovative staffing and scheduling model, thousands of the highest quality digital math lessons from dozens of providers, a reengineered space, and a 1:1 student-to-laptop ratio, students at Hart receive personalized, tailored math lessons each day. This program, known as Teach To One: Math, challenges the assumptions of the traditional factory-based education system in use for the past century and beyond and instead conceptualizes a classroom that allows students to work at their own pace on their own content each day.

Teacher Experience
Math teachers at Hart are assigned six 32-minute teaching blocks per day. Their responsibilities in these blocks range from direct instruction to a group of students learning a similar skill, facilitating a small group collaborative activity to providing tutoring, and, one-on-one support to students as they work individually on digital content. Teachers share responsibility for all students in the classroom and meet daily during common planning time to discuss classroom routines and procedures, share ideas about how to teach specific content, and review student data, among other things.

Student Experience
Students at Hart learn math through a variety of modalities and with an array of teachers. Learning may occur with peers, a teacher-directed lesson, independently, or with a virtual tutor via a tablet computer. At the end of each day, students take a five-question exit ticket that informs what lessons and what modalities they will be assigned the following day. This allows students that need additional support and remediation to be given content with a different teacher or modality, and students who are ready for the next lesson are able to move ahead.