

School Year 2013-2014

# Blended Learning Executive Summary

Educational Technology and Library Media Services Office of Teaching and Learning



# **Table of Contents**

Overview of Blended Learning and its Role in DCPS	3
DCPS Blended Learning Portfolio for School Year 2013-14	4
Lexia Reading Core 5	5
myON Reader	6
First in Math Online	7
ST Math	8
Think Through Math (TTM)	9
Teach to One (TTO) New Classrooms	10
Rosetta Stone	11
Discovery Education Techbooks	12
Blackboard Learn	13
TextHELP	15
Read & Write Gold	15
Discovery Education	16
Edmodo	17
Spotlights in Blended Learning	18
Ketcham and Randle Highlands Elementary Schools	18
Lessons learned from the pilot thus far:	19
Hart Middle School	20

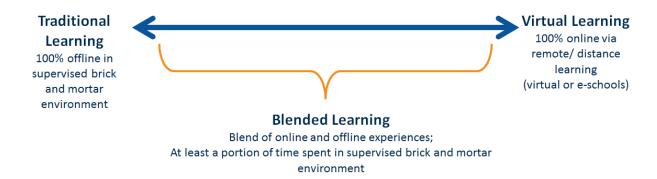


# **Overview of Blended Learning and its Role in DCPS**

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 mixes 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**

Program	Target	Grades	Dosage	# of schools
	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS			
Lexia	Literacy focus: phonics	preK-5	60-90 min/week, achieved by 15-20 min sessions in literacy block	17
myON	Literacy focus: e-libraries	preK-8	60 min/ week, achieved by 15- 20 min sessions in literacy block	27
	MATHE	MATICS		
First in Math	Math focus: fact fluency	K-8	50 min/ week, usually achieved by 10 min/ day	57
ST Math	Math focus: conceptual and non- verbal learning; problem solving	Used K-5, content range: K-8	Two 45-min sessions per week	33
Think Through Math	Math focus: problem-solving skills; word problems	4-9	Two 45-min or three 30-min sessions per week	13
Teach to One (TTO) New Classrooms	Adaptive math curriculum	6-8	90 minutes per day	1
	WORLD LA	ANGUAGES		
Rosetta Stone	World language supplement	4-8	90 minutes per week	17
	SCIENCE/SO	CIAL STUDIES		
Discovery Education Techbooks	Social studies and science digital textbooks	6-9	At least three times a week during lesson	5
	MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SOFTWARE			
Blackboard Learn (page 13)	Learning management system and online course platform	6-12	As needed for instruction & student engagement	3
Discovery Education Online	Electronic resources for all content areas; Health resources in lieu of textbooks	All	As needed for instruction	All
Edmodo	Safer social networking	6-12	As needed for instruction	All
PLATO Learning	Credit recovery; remediation and acceleration; diagnostic for reading and math; test prep for the ACT, SAT	6-12	Variable	All
TextHELP Read & Write Gold	Electronic tool for decoding, reading comprehension, translation, research, and screen reading	K-12	As needed for instruction and accessibility	All





Program Target Grades

# Lexia Reading Core 5

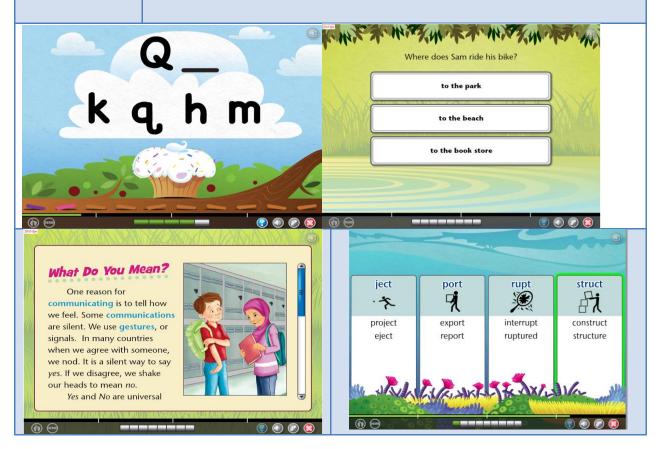
Literacy focus: phonics

PreK-5

#### **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.

	<u> </u>
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
Preview	







**Program** 

**Target** 

Grades

myON Reader

Literacy focus: e-library

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	27 elementary schools and education campuses: Bancroft, Barnard, Burroughs, Burrville, H.D. Cooke, SWWFS, Garrison, C.W. Harris, Hearst, Langdon, Langley, LaSalle-Backus, Ketcham, Miner, Murch, Noyes, Powell, Randle-Highlands, Truesdell, Tubman, Tyler, Walker-Jones, Whittier
Website	www.myon.com







**Program** 

Target

Grades

First in Math Online

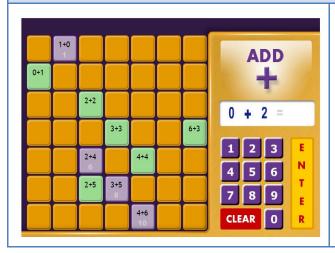
Math focus: fact fluency

K-8

#### **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	57 elementary schools, education campuses, and middle schools: Aiton, Barnard,
	Brookland, Browne, Bruce-Monroe, Burroughs, Burrville, Capitol Hill Montessori,
	Cardozo, CHOICE, Cleveland, CHEC, Deal, Eaton, Garrison, Hardy, Hart, Hearst,
	Hyde-Addison, Incarcerated Youth, JO Wilson, Janney, Key, King, Kramer, Langdon,
	Mamie D. Lee, Mann, Marie Reed, Maury, Moten, Murch, Nalle, Noyes, Orr, Oyster-
	Adams, Payne, Peabody, Plummer, Ross, School Within a School, SWWFS, Seaton,
	Sharpe Health, Smothers, Sousa, Stoddert, Stuart-Hobson, Thomas, Thomson,
	Tubman, Tyler, Walker-Jones, Watkins, West, Wheatley, Whittier, Youth Services
Website	www.firstinmath.com







MIND Research Institute	Program	Target	Grades
A neuroscience and education research-based non-profit corporation	ST Math	Math focus: conceptual and non-	K-5
MATH		verbal learning	

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.

Status	Added grades 1-2, expanded number of schools to 45 for SY 14-15
Schools	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
Website Login Information	www.stmath.com mindresearch.net > Click "About MIND" > Click on "Tour" or "Games"

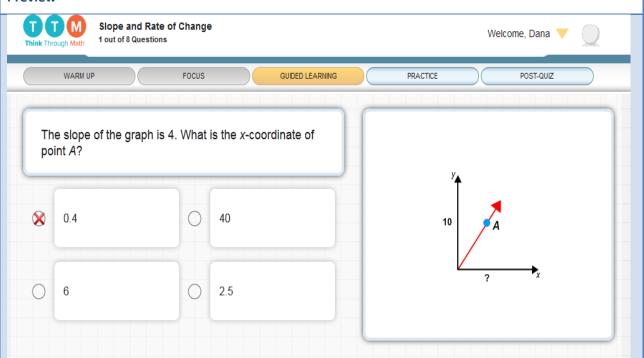






Think Through Math focuses on building problem-solving skills, especially with word problems, and covers content from 3rd grade through Algebra I. The program also offers artificial-intelligence-based avatars and access to live, online certified math teachers to further support both students and teachers.

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	
New Classrooms™	
Innovation Partners for Learning	

	Adaptive
Teach to One (TTO)	curricu

**Math** ılum

**Target** 

6-8

Grades

#### **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.

**Program** 

**New Classrooms** 

Status	Modified classroom layout, student schedules, and diagnostic assessments to improve student experience
Schools	Hart MS
Website	www.newclassrooms.org







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







Program	
---------	--

Target

# Discovery Education Techbooks

Social Studies and Science digital textbooks 6-9

**Grades** 

#### **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







Program Target Grades

**Blackboard Learn** 

Online course platform

6-12

#### **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		

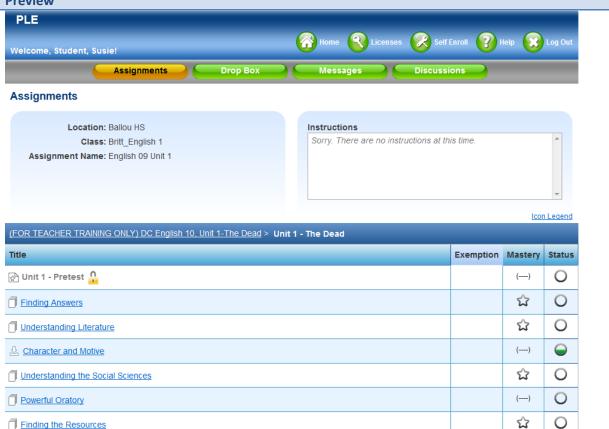




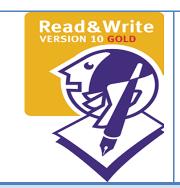


PLATO addresses needs for credit recovery, remediation, and acceleration in grades 6-12. For credit recovery, all core courses are aligned with DCPS scope and sequence documents to mirror concepts taught in the traditional classroom. The Accucess feature assesses a student's skill gaps and assigns an 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		







		_	_			
Р	r	o	g	r	ш	m

## Target

#### Grades

**TextHELP** 

**Read & Write Gold** 

Electronic tool for decoding, reading comprehension, translation, research, and screen reading

K-12

#### **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.

Text-to-speech	Calculator
Screen masking	Highlighting
Talking Dictionary	Homophone Check
Visual Dictionary	Phonetic Spellcheck
Translation	Voice Recognition
Word Prediction	

Status	Available to all schools with grades 6-12 since SY 11-12
Schools	All
Website &	http://www.texthelp.com/North-America/our-products/readwrite
Login	Please call OCTO for setup and installation on your PC/MAC







Program	Target	Grades

# **Discovery Education**

Electronic resource for all content areas

ΑII

#### **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





edmodo		Program Edmodo	<b>Target</b> Safe social networking	Grades 6-12
		Lamouo		
of their classes. Stu	nd closed-access social ne dents are able to use the s e assessments, post links, auch more.	social networking site in	a carefully monitored and	
Status	Available to all schools			
Schools	Actively used by teacher 120 parents	rs at about 30 schools; 4	485 teachers, 4000 stude	nts and
Website & Login	http://dcpublicschools.e			
	Ms. Britt to ■ DCPS E This is pretty cool! Wa  prese docs	Reply - ② ~ 2 Reaction  Edmodo Playground tch these kids explain why entation.mp4 - Google Drive s.google.com	they like coding.	
	• Yesterday • Q	Reply - 🦁 🗸 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.

#### Literacy Block Overview - Ketcham (120 min)



#### Fundations + Digital Content

- Set expectations and learning objectives during 5 minute warm-up
- Fundations for 25 min for students in below basic or basic group
- Digital content for students in proficient or advanced group

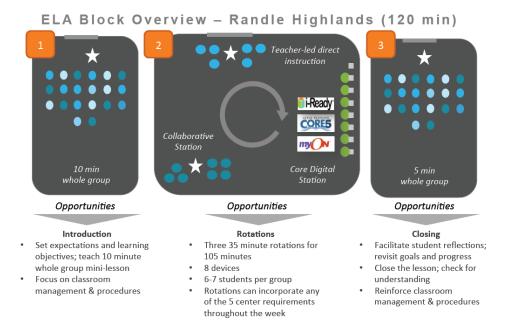
#### Read Aloud / Shared Reading

- Interactive read aloud for K-2 •
- Shared / Close reading for 3-5

#### **Blended Learning Rotations**

- Two rotations for 20-30 minutes
  Teacher pulls students from independent /
  collaborative stations for guided reading
  with teacher
- One group on digital content
- Two groups in two collaborative / independent stations
- Up to 10 students per group, few students for guided reading





# 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.