



Overview

COVID-19 caused many schools in Colorado to completely shift their instructional models from traditional in-person to remote learning instruction and other types of hybrid models. This shift has in many ways upended what schools thought of as “normal” instruction for a large number of students. Rather than going back to business as usual, it is an important moment to step back and reassess what we know, or thought we knew, about “what works” in terms of instruction, seat time/funding requirements and—fundamentally—achieving strong student outcomes. Such a reassessment requires courage, creativity, and intention to look hard at what we’ve learned, how students have been impacted, and where we go from here. We believe this is an important collective conversation across schools, districts, and the state. As such, CDE would like to start this collective conversation through what we are calling the Blended Learning Initiative.

Through the Blended Learning Initiative, we would like to understand more about blended and online learning models that are currently being used by brick-and-mortar districts and charter schools. The Initiative is particularly targeted toward districts and schools that are implementing learning models that fall outside of our updated guidance related to [Blended Learning](#) and [Supplemental Online](#) courses. Those schools and districts are eligible for a two-year [waiver](#) to the guidance. In addition, the Blended Learning Initiative will also welcome representatives from the online school and program community in order to facilitate a robust policy and best practices conversation.

Duration

CDE’s Blended Learning Initiative is an opportunity for districts to co-create with CDE a learning cohort to reimagine blended and online learning models. The program will take place from August 2021 to May 2022.

Cohort Description

The cohort will include districts and charter schools from across the state. Approximately 3 - 4 cohort convenings will occur during the 2021-2022 school year. The purpose of convenings will be to share progress and learnings, as well as to explore best practices.

How to Participate in the Blended Learning Initiative

If you would like to participate in the Blended Learning Initiative, please contact Rachel Matson at matson_r@cde.state.co.us and she will add you to the list of contacts to be informed when registration information is available.