Here is Where We Stand on Blended Learning

Ensure Blended Learning is a Key Part of Online Learning

As districts across the state planned and prepared for the 2020–21 school year, they considered a multitude of factors that made reopening in the fall significantly more difficult due to the spread of COVID-19. The most important decision districts faced — yet, perhaps the most challenging — was how to create consistent, quality, and equitable instructional opportunities for students, on top of making up missed instruction or academic losses from the 2019–20 school year.

How is Blended Learning Transforming Teaching and Learning in Texas?

The Raise Your Hand Texas® Raising Blended Learners® program impacts tens of thousands of students and hundreds of teachers in diverse districts across the state. Raising Blended Learners supports student academic growth by integrating instructional strategies that center students in their learning. Technology alone cannot personalize learning for students. The key to the success of these programs has been high-quality professional development around how to strategically use technology and data to improve classroom instruction. Feedback from educators who participated in the first few years of the program suggests that blended learning strategies could positively influence the way schools educate our students this school year. Teacher surveys from the past three years of Raising Blended Learners indicate that blended learning has positive impacts on student engagement, individualized instruction, relationships, and teachers’ own knowledge and teaching ability — all of which are essential elements of the hybrid learning environments created by COVID-19.
Raising Blended Learners teachers say their students have the skills needed to learn effectively in a blended learning context.

- **80%** of teachers say their students are, overall, more responsible for their academic progress.
- **79%** of teachers say their students have, overall, increased their engagement in the classroom.
- **76%** of teachers say they have stronger relationships with students.

Raising Blended Learners teachers feel better prepared to meet the learning needs of their students in a blended learning context.

- **86%** of teachers say they have a greater sense of individual student needs.
- **85%** of teachers say they are more targeted in their instruction.
- **85%** of teachers say their students are, overall, working on content that is relevant to their specific learning needs.
- **88%** of teachers say they use data more regularly to inform instruction.

*Source: Raising Blended Learners Teacher Survey*

**Policy Recommendations**

- Focus state policies on addressing professional development for online, hybrid, and in-person teaching necessary as a result of COVID-19.
- Consider additional investments in blended learning programs.

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