BLENDED LEARNING MODELS

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Teachers know that technology has had a great impact on how teaching and learning work. Blended learning is one of the phenomena that has come to play an increasingly important role in education.

The ideas of blended learning are that some students can benefit from doing part of their learning in a digital environment, and part of it face to face. The benefits of blended learning include the fact that many students can learn best independently and via interface with digital technology. Learning done in this virtual way is often best consolidated by in-person interactions. It combines the best of both worlds.

There are 6 basic models of blended learning that describe how it can be used in the classroom.

1. Face-to-face driver model. Students predominantly follow a traditional, in-person educational approach but then use online learning to proceed at their own pace for particular assignments and experiences. This enables teachers to more effectively pace and differentiate teaching.

2. Rotation model of blended learning. Students can rotate through various stations to learn about different facets of a topic. Some schools are virtual, while others rely on in-person direct instruction.

3. The flex model of blended learning. One in which most teaching happens online, with teachers acting as facilitators in the classroom. Instruction is mostly self-guided in this model.
4. The online lab model of blended learning. Students went to school where all education is delivered through online modules. This approach is a viable option for schools or districts experiencing limited resources or budget cuts because it can free up teacher time to focus on the students most in need.

5. In the self-blend model of blended learning, Students participate in a traditional educational program but supplement it via online instruction that they have chosen to pursue. Motivated high school students benefit the most from this model, as they can complete advanced classes on their own time.

6. The online driver model of blended learning, Students work from home or other remote locations and check in with a teacher in person or virtually about how their online modules are working. Set-up works perfectly for students who travel often, live abroad, and participate in competitive sports.

The overall advantages to blended learning is its flexibility because there are so many different models for blended learning, it is important to think about the exact needs and goals of each learner and instructor in selecting a particular model. Different models are better suited to different students, circumstances, and resources. Identifying the best model for the situation requires taking all important factors into account.

References: