BlendEd

The goal of Nebraska's BlendEd eLearning System is to implement instructional and content technologies to enhance teaching and learning, extend educational opportunities, and improve learning outcomes for students of all ages throughout the state of Nebraska in the most equitable, efficient, and effective manner possible.

BlendEd Components

Learning Object Repository (LOR) Content System

A statewide digital content repository for existing and future collections of multimedia learning objects and course materials of all types (e.g. audio, video, digital images, textual) that are standards-aligned and appropriately cataloged and classified

Learning Management System (LMS)

A statewide learning management system that allows teachers to access, create, organize instructional content; perform testing; support collaborative learning activities; and deliver instruction to students

Federated Directory Services System (LDAP)

A statewide directory service that facilitates single sign-on access to all instructional resources for every teacher and learner

Statewide Professional Development (PD) System

A comprehensive system of professional development to provide technology-assisted instructional design training, embedded professional development, and PD content shared between and among the NDE, ESUCC, higher education and other educational partners

Evaluative System

A persistent system of assessment and analytics that enables the diagnosis of specific student achievement problems and the identification of curriculum or teacher shortages (e.g. science, technology, engineering, mathematics, English language learners, credit recovery, advanced placement, etc).

The Nebraska BlendEd eLearning System

BlendEd has the potential to establish a new paradigm of blended, technology-assisted enhanced instruction. Implementation of these instructional technologies will enable teachers to access, create, and share learning objects and other educational content and reference materials that would significantly enrich and deepen the learning experiences offered to Nebraska students.

Blended education has been promoted by educational researchers as a one of the most promising recent innovations in education because it provides options for instruction. It allows flexibility in access and delivery to include support for traditional face-to-face (synchronous) instruction and online (asynchronous) instruction and supports the any time, any place, any path, any pace learning model which significantly extends learning opportunities.

Teachers will be able to access or develop content ranging from topic specific learning objects to full online courses that can be utilized; 1) in the traditional face-to-face classroom; 2) in existing video distance learning classrooms; or 3) to students outside the confines of the classroom and the normal school day. This will facilitate extending learning opportunities currently unavailable to many students in Nebraska's smaller schools due to a lack of certified teachers in certain areas, including the STEM subjects (i.e. science, technology, engineering, and math) and the languages.

This project is intended to encourage and incentivize many separate educational entities to come together to collaborate and establish a plan of action to promote the appropriate adoption of these instructional tools, technologies, and associated instructional techniques and leverage our many, outstanding existing educational resources and staff.

The implementation of this project will include strategic phases of capacity building over the next four years to reach the greatest number of teachers and students in the shortest period of time in the most cost effective manner possible.

The Nebraska BlendED Initiative will truly be a 'blend' of efforts by partners from education, business, state government and charitable foundations working together to advance learning outcomes to produce career and college ready graduates.

For more information please contact Matt Blomstedt at 402-499-6756 or matt@esucc.org