Blended Learning Defined

A formal education program in which a student learns at least in part online with some element of control over time, place, path or pace and at least in part at a supervised brick and mortar location. The modalities along each student’s learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience. (Horn & Staker, Blended 2014)

1. Student learns in part online and in part at a brick and mortar location

1. When learning online, Student has an element of control over: time, place, path & pace

Video: 6 Reasons We Love Blended Learning
Why Blended in K-12

Across the country, schools are excited about the potential to achieve Student Centered Learning \textit{at scale} via the support of Blended Learning.

- What do we mean by a Student Centered School System:
  
  Personalized $\oplus$ Competency Based $\Rightarrow$ Student Centered

- Schools are achieving Student Centered Learning in limited instances via differentiation, 1:1 tutoring, etc.. While academic results in these scenarios are strong, suggesting that we should do more, the practice is not scalable. Schools do not have the financial or human capital resources to achieve this type of Student Centered Learning for all of their students in all schools.

- Until now! Blended Learning is the way to achieve Student Centered Learning \textit{at scale in a financially sustainable way}.

*Definitions for Personalized and Competency Based may be found here in the Appendix slides.*
Blended Learning Nationally & in Texas

School districts and charter school networks are emerging as “hubs” of Blended Learning innovation in cities and states across the country.

Two of the most prominent national efforts supporting Blended/Personalized/Student Centered learning are:

• Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC)
• Next Generation System Initiative (NGSI)

Raise Your Hand Texas: Raising Blended Learners is the most promising effort to scale Blended learning statewide!

*More information on NGLC and NGSI may be found here in the Appendix slides.*
Objective: Showcase strategies for using BL to improve student achievement across diverse student demographics and geographic regions in the state, particularly among schools and districts with persistent achievement gaps.

Awards: 5 winners receive up to $500k + technical assistance

TA Ecosystem: Series of targeted supports for winners (5) and non-winners (70) – professional development, technology assistance, implementation consultation

Evaluation: FSG conducting independent strategic evaluation of process and outcomes
Initial Ecosystem Providers

Professional Development

TNTP, Friday Institute

Teacher Training / Credentialing

Deans of the Texas Graduate Schools of Education (1st Mtg Jan 16)

District / School

- 5 Winners
- 70 Workshop Participants

Policy / TEA Partnership

RYHT & Educate Texas

Online Content Selection

EdSurge

Assessments

TBD: focused on Competency Based Progression & Growth Metrics

Finance

Afton Partners

4 Year Program & Academic Impact Evaluation: FSG

Regional “Hubs” Emerging

Austin

Regional “Hubs” Emerging

N. Texas

Regional “Hubs” Emerging

Houston
Appendix Slides
Definitions:

**Personalized**

- Tailor the instructional environment - what, when, how and where students learn - to address the individual needs, skills and interests of each student.

- Students have the opportunity to take ownership over their learning.

- Student needs drive the design of flexible learning environments.

- All operational elements - staffing plans, space utilization, and schedules - respond and adapt to students’ goals.

**Competency Based**

- Students advance upon mastery.

- Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower students.

- Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience for students.

- Students receive rapid, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.
In 2011, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invited 300 school districts to apply for a $100k “planning grant” to explore how they would implement Student Centered Learning (calling it “personalized learning”) in their district. 51 accepted the opportunity!

In 2012, 20 of the 51 were awarded the $100k planning grant, designed a pilot and described how they would scale the pilot across the district if it “worked.”

In 2014, 5 districts were awarded $ to implement their pilots (first school pilots were launched this fall!!):
- Dallas ISD
- Henry County, GA
- Lake County Schools, FL
- Pinellas County Schools, FL
- Riverside Unified School District, CA
Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC)

Over the last 3 years, NGLC (funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) has funded 41 schools to pilot Student Centered Learning through their Breakthrough Schools for College Readiness program.

Last year, the Broad Foundation and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation partnered with the Gates Foundation to fund 6 Regional Hubs to incubate & support Student Centered Learning in their regions: Oakland, DC, New England, New Orleans, Colorado, LEAP Chicago. As of June 2015, 49 more schools in these regions were awarded a grant to develop Student Centered pilots!

The work we are currently doing in Texas is not formally a part of NGLC or NGSI, but we work closely with NGLC & model much of the work we are doing off of their lessons learned.