Blended Learning Grant Program
Key TEA Personnel

TEA Staff

**Andrew Hodge**
Director, Math Innovation Zones

**Kristen Dobson**
Associate Commissioner, Instructional Strategy
Agenda

What is Blended Learning?  
Blended Learning Grant Program  
  Origin and Overview  
  Implementation  
Next Steps
Students come to teachers with a variety of prior experiences, and with varying levels of background knowledge.
Diagnosing Student Academic Knowledge is Tough

In math, if students are missing a building block, they can’t move on to harder problems. Diagnosing this situation is incredibly challenging for teachers.
Ensuring every classroom has effective differentiated instruction is almost impossible to sustain, especially if there is any staff turnover.
Executing & Adjusting in Real Time Is Unsustainable

Executing differentiated lessons while juggling classroom management AND trying to analyze and redirect student misconceptions is unsustainable...
Diagnosing, differentiating, executing and adjusting instruction is incredibly challenging for all teachers, and if it isn’t done, some students aren’t effectively challenged.

\[(2 + 2) \times (2 + 2) = 16\]
We Must Support Our Teachers with Differentiation

We need to better support our educators so they can effectively meet the needs of all students, leading towards academic outcomes in a sustainable way.

We need to better support our teachers.
Blended Learning: A Solution to Reach All Students

Face to Face Instruction

Blended Learning

Online Instruction
Blended Learning: A Solution to Reach All Students

What online instruction can bring to face to face teacher instruction:

- Quick diagnosis of prior understanding of all students
- Simple differentiation in lesson planning for all students
- Instant adjustments in lesson execution based on real-time information from all students
What face-to-face instruction offers but online-only lacks:

- Human flexibility with critical instructional decisions
- Love from a real teacher
- Face-to-face encouragement
- Emotional support and direction
Blended Learning: A Solution to Reach All Students

Face to Face Instruction

Blended Learning

Online Instruction
Technology Helps to Diagnose Prior Understanding

Through an online diagnostic, teachers can plot out exactly where their students stand in terms of overall mathematics performance and growth.
Based on initial and ongoing diagnostics, a customized path is created to meet the unique academic needs of every student.
Technology helps teachers scale this intentional planning so that there is differentiated instruction for all students.
Diagnosing Mastery and Differentiating Plans

![STAAR Readiness Report](chart.png)

The STAAR Readiness Report provides detailed information on student performance across various categories. The report includes columns for different strands of numerical representations and relationships, indicating percentages of students who meet or exceed the standards in each category. Teachers can use this data to diagnose mastery and differentiate plans accordingly.
Diagnosing Mastery and Differentiating Plans

65% of class is in need of remediation
65% of the class were falling short on one student expectation (SE). With this information, the teacher can assign 45% of the class to individual assignments while small group instruction takes place for the students in need of remediation.
Reach all kids, all the time, in a sustainable way.

When implemented with fidelity, blended learning combines the power and heart of direct instruction with the real-time capabilities of software to meet the needs of all students in a sustainable and scalable way.

Combines teacher-led instruction with technological flexibility.

Effective Individualized Instruction
In a nationwide study on blended learning led by the RAND Corporation, schools implementing blended learning overwhelmingly had positive effects on math and reading performance. Students in a blended learning environment made significant academic gains. Students made more academic growth the longer they experienced blended learning.
HB3: Blended Learning Grant Program Overview
Given the Commission on School Finance recommendation to scale high quality blended learning programs, HB3 included the Blended Learning Grant Program (BLGP) and set aside $6 million annually for grants.

### Blended Learning Grant Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math Innovation Zones (MIZ)</th>
<th>Non-Math Blended Learning Pilots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on K-8 math improvement with goal of 8th grade, Algebra I readiness and participation</td>
<td>Uses the Math Innovation Zones model to test what works in non-math subjects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Math Innovation Zones (MIZ)**

- ELAR
- Science
- Social Studies
- Other

**Non-Math Blended Learning Pilots**
Through the BLGP, TEA will award planning and execution grants to support the high-fidelity implementation of a blended learning instructional model to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

**Program Phase:** Planning  
**Purpose:** Design and plan for the implementation of the blended learning model by leveraging program supports and network

**District Opportunities:**
- **Up to 25 Planning Grants of up to $125,000** awarded for MIZ and non-math blended learning pilots
- **Up to 10 self-funded districts** accepted into MIZ and eligible for execution grants

Application Open Now! Deadline: November 4, 2019
HB3: Blended Learning Grant Program

Through the BLGP, TEA will award planning and execution grants to support the high-fidelity implementation of a blended learning instructional model to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2019</th>
<th>Spring 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Phase:</strong> Planning</td>
<td><strong>Program Phase:</strong> Execution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> Design and plan for the implementation of the blended learning model by leveraging program supports and network</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> Launch the blended learning program and manage implementation performance throughout academic year</td>
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<td><strong>District Opportunities:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Up to 25 Planning Grants of up to $125,000 awarded for MIZ and non-math blended learning pilots</td>
<td>• Up to 35 Execution Grants of up to $100,000 awarded to MIZ and non-math districts based on an evaluation of district and school plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Up to 10 self-funded districts</strong> accepted into MIZ and eligible for execution grants</td>
<td>All participants eligible for Execution Grants</td>
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Application Open Now! Deadline: November 4, 2019
All LEAs are eligible to apply to the BLGP and TEA will evaluate applications towards a set of program requirements and priorities and the attributes of school districts representing a strong fit with the BLGP.

### Requirements and Priorities

**Required:**
- **Personnel:** Dedicate BLGP Project Manager (PM) at district-level to allocate 50% time for life of project
  - Note: ESCs may apply as PMs for one or more districts
- **Feeder Pattern Approach:** Pilot in subset of grades in year 1 and grow to full feeder pattern implementation in 3 years
- **High-Quality Online Software Curriculum:** Research-backed results in increasing student achievement within district context

**Prioritized:**
- **Results:** Feeder patterns w/ schools w/ majority of students approaching grade level & at least 15% meeting grade level in proposed subject
- **Economic Indicators:** Feeder patterns w/ schools w/ high percent of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds

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### Fit

- **Commitment from Leadership:** Senior district and school champions with commitment to blended learning and a willingness to allow innovation; Shows eagerness to adopt BLGP process and framework and openness to re-think district systems
- **Project Manager:** Strategic-thinking, results-oriented project manager given the ability to implement program in district

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**Application Open Now! Deadline: November 4, 2019**
Implementing the Blended Learning Grant Program
The Blended Learning Grant Program is a process to successfully design, launch, and sustainably implement a high-quality blended learning program in a feeder pattern within 4 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample BLGP Launch Plan</th>
<th>Year 0</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Pilot w/ 3 Grades</td>
<td>Add 3 Grades</td>
<td>Add 3 Grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td></td>
<td>K – 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>K – 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; – 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Districts may propose alternative launch plans to achieve full implementation within K-8<sup>th</sup> grade or beyond.
The Blended Learning Grant Program provides support and guidance for school districts and charter schools in both strategic program planning and in an effective, data-driven execution of blended learning.

**BLGP Requirements in Planning**
- Participate in BLGP Kickoff Summit
- Develop a blended learning plan that meets rigorous planning standards
- Engage with an approved Design and Implementation Vendor
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**BLGP Requirements in Execution**
- Administer proficiency-based assessments
- Provide training to teachers on blended learning practices
- Provide planning time to support data driven instruction
- Meet weekly student software progress targets to confirm implementation of the program
- Provide an outcomes report after year 4
Math Innovation Zones takes the same approach as the Blended Learning Grant Program but goes a step further in defining a high-fidelity planning and execution phase and awarding MIZ Designation to campuses.

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TEA has built a robust system of supports to enable districts and schools to be successful in the planning and execution phases of BLGP implementation.

**Design & Implementation**
- Blended Learning Model Design & Development
- Targeted Professional Development
- Master Schedule Alignment

**Operations**
- Financial Sustainability & Cost Savings
- Performance Management System
- Single Sign On and Rostering
- Technology Infrastructure

**High-Quality Curriculum Selection**
- Software Vendor Approval
- Software Programs to Core Curriculum Alignment
- Review and Adoption Guidance
- Math Core Curriculum Review

- **Required for All BLGP**
- **Access as Needed to Meet Requirements**
TEA will award districts with BLGP Planning Grants in the coming months, evaluate district strategic plans in the spring, and support a high-fidelity execution of a blended learning model in the academic year.
Stay tuned for the most up-to-date information from TEA on the implementation of House Bill 3

Visit tea.texas.gov/HB3 for the most up-to-date information

Email HB3info@tea.texas.gov with any questions
Thank you!

For Additional Questions:

HB3info@tea.texas.gov

Include “Blended Learning Grant Program” in the subject line