



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Innovative Synchronous Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment Pilot Program

[School, System or District Name]

Innovative Synchronous Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment Pilot Program

Purpose

The purpose of this pilot program is to develop and measure innovative synchronous blended learning and real-time weekly student assessment educational models that improve the educational progress of Florida's participating schools and their students, with a focus on closing achievement gaps for traditionally underserved students.

Pursuant to section 1002.334, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the term "innovative blended learning" means a mode of learning where in-person and remote students are combined in one classroom environment where the education, instruction, and engagement occurs at the same time with the teacher and other students physically present in the classroom.

Additionally, for a given course, students learn in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path or pace and in part at a traditional supervised classroom location away from home.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this program, an applicant must meet one of the following criteria (check which one applies):

- A high-performing charter school under section 1002.331, F.S.;
- A high-performing charter school system under section 1002.332, F.S.; or
- An academically high-performing school district pursuant to section 1003.621, F.S.

An applicant from a high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter school system must include the letter from the Commissioner of Education declaring that the school or system has attained high-performing status.

An applicant from an academically high-performing school district must include with this application the most recent annual report it submitted to the State Board of Education and the Legislature, pursuant to section 1003.621(4), F.S.

Proposed Plan for Innovative Synchronous Blended Learning and Real-Time Assessment

1. Describe the educational program. How does its plan for synchronous blended learning enhance this program? Describe how the plan is innovative.

2. List the curriculum to be used in the core academic areas (by grade level). Describe instructional strategies to be used during synchronous sessions. Describe how teachers will differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students (including those below grade level) and how they will benefit from innovative blended learning.

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3. Describe how the administration and staff of the school, system or district will support the success of the innovative blended learning program.

4. Describe in detail how it will protect the privacy of students learning in a remote location.

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5. Describe the expectations and opportunities for professional development for administrators and instructional staff. Specifically, how will the school or district prepare and support its staff for an innovative blending learning environment.

6. Explain in detail how the school or district will provide at least weekly progress monitoring of real-time student performance in its innovative blended learning programs. Specifically, identify which progress monitoring tool will be used, and whether different tools will be used for different grade levels.

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- 7. Explain in detail the school or district’s plan to reduce achievement gaps through innovative blended learning.

- 8. Describe how the school or district will provide the full panoply of services and opportunities for all students, no matter their mode of learning. Services would include, but would not be limited to, those for students with disabilities, English language learners, migrant families and low-income families. Opportunities would include sports, clubs, after-school activities, tutoring and counseling.

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Requirements for participants in the Innovative Blended Learning and Real-Time Student Assessment Pilot Program

The applicant must agree to all of the following assurances by checking the corresponding boxes.

- Assurance 1:** The applicant must ensure that distance learning will always be at the choosing of the student or the student's parent or guardian, and that a family will never be coerced to choose distance learning. The applicant must further ensure that all of the distance learning will be synchronous with live instruction.
- Assurance 2:** The applicant must ensure that a participating classroom may not be fully virtual such that at least two-thirds of the students in a class must be present for in-person learning on any regularly scheduled school day.
- Assurance 3:** The applicant must ensure that any struggling student who is participating in this program and who, according to progress monitoring data, is on pace to learn less than a year's content in a year's time must return to learning in person.
- Assurance 4:** The applicant must ensure that any student can choose to switch learning modalities, in person or distance, on any given day, without notice, and therefore a seat must always be available for every student registered to take any participating course.
- Assurance 5:** The applicant must ensure that it will provide all requested student-level data from participating schools, including, as necessary, benchmark historical data for up to the prior three school years, to the Florida Department of Education upon request.
- Assurance 6:** The applicant must ensure that students with Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) are provided needed services and supports in alignment with current students IEPs necessary to ensure receipt of a free and appropriate education. The applicant must ensure that IEP teams are appropriately determining needed services and supports, including compensatory services, regardless of learning modality and have a process in place to document the provision of those services and supports pursuant to the requirements of state and federal law.

Acknowledgement

The applicant verifies the information in this form.

Name and title of person responsible for completion and submission of this plan for Innovative Synchronous Blended Learning and Real-Time Assessment
Contact information: email, phone number

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Date submitted
Signature of authorized representative