

# Blended Learning

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## 1. What is Blended Learning?

Blended learning is a formal education model in which at least a percentage of the course takes place online; the student has some element of control over time, place, path, and/or pace; and learning occurs at least in part at a brick-and-mortar location away from the home.

- Teachers coded as blended have access to computers regularly.
- Teachers utilizing blended learning through a Learning Management System (LMS) or Integrated Learning System (ILS) are strongly recommended to participate in professional learning opportunities for the respective software application and appropriate instructional strategies.

## 2. What are the Florida Statutory Requirements for Blended Learning?

- Florida Statute [1003.01\(14\)](#) removes digital learning courses, including blended learning, offered under Florida Statute [1002.321\(4\)\(e\)](#), from the definition of the term "core-curricula courses" for the purposes of class size requirements.
- The Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT) Initiative ([s. 1003.499](#)) specifies that instruction through the blended learning model may be provided using:
  - online instructional videos
  - online class forums
  - online homework assignments and projects
  - coupled with one-on-one direct instructional support to students
- The blended learning program shall include components such as:
  - differentiated instruction
  - flexible scheduling
  - differentiated teaching
  - self-paced learning
- The District Innovation School of Technology Program ([s. 1002.451](#)) expands the blended learning program components to include data-driven placement and describes the three models schools may use for blended learning – rotation model, flipped classroom model, or flex model.

## 3. Blended Learning District Review

- All classes coded as blended learning with 4 or more students over class size compliance maximums will be reviewed by District Staff.

## 4. Documentation for Blended Learning Courses

It is the principal's responsibility to maintain documentation to support each course coded as blended learning has met the statutory requirements. Such documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Learning Management System or Integrated Learning System records
- Lesson plans reflecting online assignments or interaction
- Samples of student coursework (e.g. digital assignments, quizzes, tests, final examinations)
- Observation data

## 5. How is the Blended Learning code entered in TERMS?

- Blended courses are coded in TERMS on the C17 panel under the BLC field.

## 6. How does a course identified as Blended Learning affect Class Size Reduction (CSR)?

- Courses coded with "Y" in the BLC field on the C17 are removed from CSR compliance calculations as per Florida Statute [1003.01\(14\)](#).

## Online Learning

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### 1. What is Online Learning?

- Online learning is a course involving student-teacher interaction in which **100%** of the course content and instruction must occur through an online delivery model via a learning management system with the student having some element of control over time, place, or pace.

### 2. High School Graduation Online Course Requirements

- Beginning with students entering 9th grade in the 2011-2012 school year, at least one course within the 24 credits required must be completed through online learning.
- A high school credit-bearing online course taken during 6th-8th grades fulfills this requirement.
- This requirement is met through an online course offered by Broward Virtual School, Florida Virtual School, an online course offered by the high school, or an online dual enrollment course.
- A student who is enrolled in a full-time or part-time virtual instruction program under s. [1002.45](#), meets this requirement.
- A school district may allow a student to satisfy the online course requirements by completing:
  - a blended learning course, or
  - a course in which the student earns a nationally recognized industry certification in information technology that is identified on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to s. [1008.44](#), or
  - passing the information technology certification examination without enrolling in or completing the corresponding course or courses, as applicable.
- A school district may not require a student to take the online or blended learning course outside the school day or in addition to a student's courses for a given semester.
- This requirement does not apply to a student who has an IEP that indicates an online or blended learning course would be inappropriate.
- This requirement does not apply to an out-of-state transfer student who is enrolled in a Florida high school and has less than one academic year remaining in high school.
- NCAA-bound student-athletes should only choose online learning options that are approved by the NCAA to meet eligibility criteria. At this time, only FLVS/BVS are approved by the NCAA.

### 3. How is the Online Learning code entered in TERMS?

- The LS field, next to the BLC field, on the C17 panel identifies a Virtual Instruction Course. This information is sent to the FLDOE.

### 4. Blended Learning for High School Online Learning Credit Requirement

- Florida Statute [1003.4282\(4\)\(b\)](#) allows a student to satisfy the high school graduation online course requirement by completing a blended learning course.
- Blended learning courses must be coded in TERMS on the C17 panel with a "Y" in the BLC field. Once the student earns credit in that course (at the end of the semester for non-EOC courses OR at the end of the year for EOC courses), the online code is automatically entered on the A13 for the students in that class.
  - As a reminder, in order to meet the online requirement for graduation, the student must complete a FULL high school course. Example: English 1 is a 1.00 credit course. In order to meet the online requirement for graduation with this course, the student must complete the whole 1.00 credit online. US Government is a .50 credit course, so in order to meet the online requirement for graduation using this course, the student would only have to complete .50 of US Government.
- Credit Recovery courses may be coded as blended learning if they meet the blended learning requirements of other courses, with the exception of the bona fide instructional time as outlined in Florida Statute, Section [1003.436\(1\)\(a\)](#).