Do Profile proof your Science stories/Headlines/etc. Joint ventures and Searches!

ISTE Discussion Group for Technology in Education

Discussions | Promotions | Jobs | Members | Search

Discussion Group Home > Discussions > Discussion Forum > Discussion Topic

Hey everyone, I was just reading an article about bringing online teaching to high schools. Is this a good idea or are students not really ready for this yet? Discussion Forum

Robert Ling
Manager of Sales & Marketing at Software Answers, Inc.
Top Contributor

4 days ago

Like (1) · Comment (25) · Follow · Reply Privately · 13 days ago

Comments

0 Most Valuable, Most Stacked, and 2 others Rate this

38 comments - Jump to most recent comment

Carole Chandler
Marketing Coordinator at Magnus Health

I know that several independent schools are trying this approach, with businesses offices looking to hire students who have demonstrated providing quality education through distance learning. http://www.magnushealth.com/blog/bid/108004/Can-Kids-Receive-Individualized-Care-Through-the-Financial-Landscape

It's a new field that will take several years to evaluate, but it still could prove beneficial. It allows more course options, however, there is no real substitute for in-person interaction. It would depend on the student and how they learn best.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 13 days ago

Robert Ling
Manager of Sales & Marketing at Software Answers, Inc.
Top Contributor

Great opinion Carole. It is interesting to see the options that online teaching can provide. Should students become more responsible as they are not in a classroom? Or would they stack off because there is no authority there to make sure they are accountable.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 13 days ago

Robert Ling
Manager of Sales & Marketing at Software Answers, Inc.
Top Contributor

Great opinion Carole. It is interesting to see the options that online teaching can provide. Should students become more responsible as they are not in a classroom? Or would they stack off because there is no authority there to make sure they are accountable.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 13 days ago

Marko Pavlovic
Lead Front-end Developer & Founder of TheMotivat.com

I think that about bringing online teaching to high/schools would create two distinct groups of students: the ones who could find this change empowering (because they are willing to take the modern tools that the web provides and by focusing on the subjects they are interested in, they could learn more than the traditional way) and the ones who would find the sudden change of the web does not set administration problems, but the students themselves. Since now groups will eventually come down to whether teachers can provide online content that is engaging enough to substitute in-person teaching.

As an entrepreneur, I am focusing on creating a tool that will make the life of a modern high school student more productive.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 10 days ago

Link 1 · Share this

John Kennedy
Online Instructional Designer at Sydney Distance Education High School

Online learning as part of a blended learning program for all school students is the only solution. It's about a teacher as an educational facilitator providing quality personalized blended learning programs with a combination of elearning (including online learning and more conventional teaching and learning pedagogy. At Sydney Distance Education High School we have had a very successful online learning program for students in Years 7-12 for the last 10 years and the staff development we had to reduce from teaching full courses to teaching one course. Our biggest challenges is engaging and professionally developing the teachers first to ensure they can then engage and professionally develop the students. Online learning is not for everyone and everywhere. Ultimately after identifying a student's learning style, a course design and plan the learning program best suited to that student which could be somewhere on a continuum of learning styles from a fully online program to a traditional classroom program. Online learning is not a fad and is as a facilitator in this 21st Century observing or observing enhancement is an essential element for school-aged students, not like the more mature learners attending university etc. who can go it alone. Online learning is not for everyone and everywhere and is not for all school-aged students. We are currently working on a project developing online modules for Principals and teachers to be able to recognize what quality online learning modules look like and how to develop quality online learning modules. Our current project is based on Years 3-6 SLS based on current research and our own modules experience. Hope this helps.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 10 days ago

Catherine B. Maks III · Rss this

A Lisa
Instructor at FLdeR/HS/South Texas College
Top Contributor

Do the learning works for some, but the maturity of the student needs to be considered greatly - the student needs to be self-motivated more that for classroom learning.

Tony

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Patricia C. Rss this

Ed Fitzgerald
CEO Coordinator at Palm Beach County School District

@Marko, as an experienced blended program of secondary students I'd say there actually are 3 groups of students. The ones who find it empowering, the ones who find it a sudden change and those who try to cheat their education (just like they are doing in the classroom). That's why a teacher can never go away, an engaged teacher can help groups 1 and 2, group 3 needs an avatarding.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 10 days ago

Patricia C. Rss this

Peggy Dolor
Professional Coordinator/On-line Teacher at LEARN

I am an on-line teacher in the province of Quebec. I am part of an organization, LEARN. We offer courses to students in secondary 1 to 5 (ages 12 to 17). We do not "teach" the courses, we are the teachers, most regularly in plain collaboration and engaged in discussions. The students quickly see the advantages. It's here support of our administration, the administration of the schools on-same and our parents.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Dianne C. Castle · Rss this

Regina Gilchrist Ash
STEM Development at Senoia Comedy Schools

Although it is a different medium in which to learn - it is, overall, no different than various learning environments. Students who are self-motivated, self-directed, and have good time management skills often do not learn at all. Some students need hands-on, manipulative, or kinesthetic to learn; others are auditory learners - many students CAN learn to become good online learners with training and practice. Students who are disorganized, have difficulty maintaining the best possible medium and who care about academic success.

That leads us to perhaps another point: online instruction is NOT easier for the teacher than face-to-face instruction. Let's perhaps the past decade plus, I have observed a number of (primarily university level) instructors opting for distance learning over ISI classes and I have heard them say that it is easier for them to teach online than in a classroom. Nothing is further from the truth in the case, perhaps that is why the students are having a hard time with it. Many I have been a learner in distance learning courses of both types. In the BEST of both worlds, I thought about the time I spent in a classroom with students and I thought about the time I spent in my office answering & demanding teachers - no matter the format, I must respond. I was astonished because I realized that it required MUCH more time in a class when in a traditional setting, however, I was able to do more in less time in the online environment because I could answer a lot of my issues and hundreds of hours I would have spent in class. I also realized an incredible number of hours to stay on top of assignments in both classes - something I didn't normally have to do.

I have also been in online classes where worksheets were digitized and the expectation of "upload your books to page 232" must to page 250 and answer questions 1-5" was the class format. To say I was disenchanted is an understatement.

And if I had been a teenager, with an as-yet-not-fully developed pre-frontal cortex, and I hadn't been quite capable of making the rational decisions I am supposed to make as an adult, I'm amazed that I would have completed those ridiculous exercise of time online classes successfully.

Tina

This comment is not to be construed as negative but rather is meant to be a realistic reflection of the pitfalls and benefits of online learning. I am a strong proponent of the benefits of online learning for all the kids and adults, as a learning curve is to be expected from all new learners. Please don't take my comments as similar criticism.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Tammy S. Rss this

Andrew Jones
School-based Technology Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools

Online learning is a great option for students who need to work at their own pace or have a particular interest not covered by the traditional classroom. Students who are self-motivated and have the responsibility for learning on the Internet, and allows for more individualized pacing. The benefit of this is that with differentiation, no one system will work for all students, and offering choice can be quite motivational.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Maggie Weeks
Project Coordinator/Program Director Educational Technology at Wright State University

On-line instruction is very time consuming and challenging. Our faculty has the opportunity to earn a certificate by taking their Instructional Design courses. Based on the synchronous on-line classes I have taken, I'm sure that the instructors are very busy. Well-prepared instructors are a plus. I like the instructions way on a class site, don't ever have the feedback. Blind just until unsolicit.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Mary Sucher
VP Industry Solutions & Policy at Digital Learning Alliance

Some online courses are already available in Fairfax County, VA. My daughter was able to complete a course in Spanish that was not offered at her high school because it was offered on a distance learn summer. She resumed face to face instruction the following semester when she returned to school full time. She found that her online course had been accelerated, having students do two years worth of work in one year. She found the instructor was very responsive and one of her non-curriculum courses in college that are available only online. With the tight use of technology and human tools, online courses can be extremely effective. With collaboration tools, students can work in groups, they can see each other, they can see the teacher, they can have conference call, and the teacher can share powerpoint or other educational materials with the students. The most effective courses require that students come prepared for the class so that there is finely discussion.

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Mark E. Maks III · Rss this

Michele Dorrego
Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences at Brandman University - Chapman University System

K12 and other adult high schools have been around for some time in the US. However, I echo the sentiments posted here. It depends upon the motivation and investment of both instructor and student; the same as it would in an on-campus classroom. Keep in mind, too, that as Mary mentioned, there are many students who are not able to attend a brick and mortar school. Instructors meet in real-time with their entire class on a hour-for-hour F2F collaborate or other similar tools, anywhere from one to five days a week. My guess is we'll be seeing a lot more of the online learning environment in the future, as it has been for the last 10 years. Online classes, as they have been now-to-date limited to have those real-time meetings, have been quite popular. On the other hand, my adult learners want the flexibility of the asynchronous model, but even they enjoy having the option of a face-to-face times a term.

In the end, I think the point is that we are increasing educational choices for students, and I think that is a good thing. Students need to be able to choose what is best for them. Is it homeschooling K12? Much of this work is accomplished online. But that does not take up to work and an intern in a lab setup, where they make their own sitcs and have impressed upon him how important that is. Rss this

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

John Hilkes
Lead DB at ExpertsIT

This can be very effective as a bridge between high school and college. Now that colleges also offer online classes, students can take classes online while still in high school and finish college a year or two after completion. this could be the best case scenario for using these technologies.

In some colleges ones students are chatting with their smartphones as lectures are occurring so many high school aged students will be easily distracted from the lecture and will miss most of the massses. Even real-time instruction can be problematic for the student that is not self-motivated.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Catherine Sherstick
Educational Technology

Great conversation. - It is important to keep in mind that teachers need PD to support online learning. As pointed out in the discussion, some students will find some online to be a very good match. Same for teachers. Good professional development and training is essential. We use Moodle for our online learning environment. Moodle is a free, open source, flexible, online/blended learning environment. http://www.leadership.ncsu.edu/blog/2011/03/01/online-and-blended-teaching-tips/

Once you have a good support structure in place with technology, I think schools need to embrace e-learning and e-learning, and try and incorporate as much of them into the curriculum as possible. And there are many other things worth considering, such as:

1. Is the school's technology department prepared for the shift into e-learning, and if not then what do they need to do to be prepared? Is it a worthwhile investment?
2. Is the administration prepared to becoming tech-heavy? Some people simply don't like anything that embraces the change, then it won't stick.
3. Are the teachers prepared to incorporate e-learning into their classes? Do they need additional PD in the area?
4. Have the students been given guidelines to what they can and can't do with this new technology?
5. Are the parents on board? And if so, what are their expectations from us?

These are just 5 questions I can think of right now, but I'm sure there are many, many more that need to be discussed before entering into e-learning.

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Tisha Grace Rinker
Director of Counseling

Robert, online learning in the K-12 arena has been taking place for one a decade. I have seen many students successful engaging in online and blended learning environments. Take a look at the Keeping Pace report: http://bit.ly/ c/ conv

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Regina Gilchrist Ash
STEM Development at Senoia Comedy Schools

Robert, online learning has been around for a decade and Mr. Hilkes's comments about many of us having been assigned to this for over a decade are also accurate. However, many of us were not ready when we jumped in the deep end. In addition to the questions asked, the psychological and emotional aspects of online learning need to be considered. I'm a very, very, very, very, very, very, very willing to not only accept additional and different roles, I'm willing to do a great deal of much-to-have-to. Nameless bandwagon vacuums to the tech domain.2) education-based for PD some a 100 degree range from those who were forced into online learning in education to those who have more than five tech degrees and have been teaching online for years. Some of us have been online for years, some more and some to be creative, but need support. Now many of our districts have high or very post-doctoral tech support available for teachers? And what if we are not ready or not willing to use it? with today's environments - 21st Century - I'm willing to learn more about how to operate the tech tools, but I need time and support. Many of us are overwhelmed with our current responsibilities, when to use it, the first goes on, and what kind of tech tools to use. Rss this

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Michele Dorrego
Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences at Brandman University - Chapman University System

Marshall, thank you for reminding me that this exists! It's a wonderful resource, as are the Google hangouts for PD and the Skype lessons site, where you can connect with other classrooms. Unfortunately, I have been in many fields as well. All of them can be used to supplement or inform good online courses.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Mandy Mensday
Instructional School Education & Graduate Student in Educational Technology & Leadership/Instructional Design

That's a really important question, and not one that can be answered with a clear 'yes' or 'no'. Knowing some of the tendencies of the students, their ability to be self-motivated, their ability to work well in a collaborative group or with technology, if ready is a part of their identity, and naturally, they have extended this connection into learning. I think schools need to embrace e-learning and e-learning, and try and incorporate as much of them into the curriculum as possible. And there are many other things worth considering, such as:

1. Is the school's technology department prepared for the shift into e-learning, and if not then what do they need to do to be prepared? Is it a worthwhile investment?
2. Is the administration prepared to becoming tech-heavy? Some people simply don't like anything that embraces the change, then it won't stick.
3. Are the teachers prepared to incorporate e-learning into their classes? Do they need additional PD in the area?
4. Have the students been given guidelines to what they can and can't do with this new technology?
5. Are the parents on board? And if so, what are their expectations from us?

These are just 5 questions I can think of right now, but I'm sure there are many, many more that need to be discussed before entering into e-learning.

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Tisha Grace Rinker
Director of Counseling

Robert, online learning in the K-12 arena has been taking place for one a decade. I have seen many students successful engaging in online and blended learning environments. Take a look at the Keeping Pace report: http://bit.ly/ c/ conv

Like (1) · Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Regina Gilchrist Ash
STEM Development at Senoia Comedy Schools

Robert, online learning has been around for a decade and Mr. Hilkes's comments about many of us having been assigned to this for over a decade are also accurate. However, many of us were not ready when we jumped in the deep end. In addition to the questions asked, the psychological and emotional aspects of online learning need to be considered. I'm a very, very, very, very, very, very, very willing to not only accept additional and different roles, I'm willing to do a great deal of much-to-have-to. Nameless bandwagon vacuums to the tech domain.2) education-based for PD some a 100 degree range from those who were forced into online learning in education to those who have more than five tech degrees and have been teaching online for years. Some of us have been online for years, some more and some to be creative, but need support. How many of our districts have high or very post-doctoral tech support available for teachers? And what if we are not ready or not willing to use it? with today's environments - 21st Century - I'm willing to learn more about how to operate the tech tools, but I need time and support. Many of us are overwhelmed with our current responsibilities, when to use it, the first goes on, and what kind of tech tools to use. Rss this

Regina Gilchrist · Rss this

Michele Dorrego
Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences at Brandman University - Chapman University System

Regina, I'm with you. For many now, too, it's not just that they don't have computers at home, but that they don't have access to high speed broadband. Can you imagine trying to do the things they'd need to do with dial-up? Some school districts have been able to get hotels to help all students have this access. They work with the provider to get a discount, and then pay for each student to have a broadband connection.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Robert Ling
Manager of Sales & Marketing at Software Answers, Inc.
Top Contributor

Rarely. Rarely, you make some great points and bring up some important questions that are vital for the school systems to be asking.

Imagine if teachers had to learn a whole new way of teaching. (Vital would this mean for College?)

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Virginia Simmons
Director at NCS Adult Education

As an adult educator, I would like to address this from that populations view point. We are seeing a lot of our students who are unemployed or underemployed because they don't have the required skills or resources for information. Hopefully, most schools already have the option of online learning. Virtual schools are certainly the answer for many students for a plethora of reasons, but it is not the only option. Many students need the interaction with a teacher and other students. Many need to see their actual school and teachers from the district teach the classes. It is not a social network. In adult education, we often hear that our students have struggled through school and dropped out because they felt disconnected from their teachers and classmates. Online classes can be a great thing from the stage to being successful in a virtual class. On the back-end, they need computer literacy skills, can help with schedules and feeling of assignments, can create a monitoring system with alerts, can be a great tool for communication between students and teachers and can be a great change to us, we do not change teachers.

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 9 days ago

Rod Sayers
President at Mellon Delaware

We have been in the business of online career technical material for years. Short sec-secondary courses in Accounting, Business Law, Business Math, Business Management, Business Communications. We now have 75,000 students and 2,000 instructors in the system. The content is based on an Integrated LMS. Material is Flash based (we are moving to HTML5). Includes assessments, tutorials, etc. Our Business Math course is a prerequisite for our Accounting. Included, teachers can fix pass rates. Certificates can be printed. The graphics are in a database whereby it can be access by teachers to build a presentation. Schools purchase an annual site license based on the number of students. Our Accounting course is a 2 semester course and most spring-night students fail courses are up 70%, lecture hours reduced 25%. It's still provide a being instructor password. If you would like to take a look. My address is dsayers@mybizclass.com

Like · 1 Reply privately · Flag as inappropriate · 1 day ago

SHOW MORE COMMENTS

Add a comment...

Send me an email for each new comment. Add Comment

Wfc Behavioural Science
Executive MSc offered by the Department for Social Policy and Management
Ads You May Be Interested In

Secure Privileged Accts
Secure access to privileged accts. is authenticated, authorized and logged

Top Contributors in this Group

Jack S.
EVMS Business School Graduate · Business Development at Press Ganey
Follow Now | See all members >

Your group contribution level

Start by commenting in a discussion. Group participants get to the number of profile views.

Getting Started

Ads You May Be Interested In

Recruiter can view profile
Post a job to reach the right contact you for a senior-level job opportunity

SMB's marketing... Sites
Sites for small business with WITH Sustainable business should be Fully

Cyber Governance Webinar
Explore the Integration between Identity Administration & Access Governance

Latest Activity

Teresa Crutchfield started a discussion in Instructional Design & Learning Teams: Careers in your school or district

Teresa Crutchfield Rss this discussion in Instructional Design & Education about: focus more on making students a better human being

Teresa Crutchfield commented in the group in Today's Education should focus more on making students a better human being: Hmmm, I think that is a very important and effective appropriate methods and

25 minutes ago

See all activity.

About | Feedback | Privacy & Terms
LinkedIn © 2003-2012 LinkedIn Corp. All 2014