

Identifying Student Needs

Online and blended learning offers many benefits to students including access to more courses and teachers, flexible scheduling, and more control over course pacing. Students can also strengthen time management and study skills, improve academic outcomes, and graduate high school on time or even ahead of schedule.

Designing the right online or blending learning program for your school or district is contingent on the unique needs of your student population.



Student Skills that Support Online and Blended Learning Success

Students will need self-motivation, time-management, and communication skills in order to do well in an online or blended learning program. Consider these skills when recruiting and enrolling students, as well as planning for the necessary supports to ensure that at-risk, home-bound, and special-needs students can be successful.

Additionally, look for an online program that includes instruction and tools to help students build these essential skills as they progress through their courses.

1. Time-management skills are necessary to handle the responsibility of self-pacing.
2. Self-motivation skills are required to remain on track and engaged without constant guidance from a teacher.
3. Ability and willingness to learn independently are important since students may have little occasion to interact with peers.
4. Strong reading and writing skills are needed to comprehend content, synthesize information, follow directions, and more.
5. Effective communication skills are necessary for communicating with teachers to ask questions, receive support, and stay on pace.
6. Basic technical skills are required to navigate the course, web links, and additional content, as well as interactive learning tools and resources.



“The program works because students take over their own learning. They have choices, and the online program offers them a safe environment for learning. They can slow down when they need to. They can take a break. They can review. They love having that level of control—and they do well.”

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