Flex Classrooms

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## What is Flex Instruction

*David J. Rosen director of the Adult Literacy Resource*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>combination of in-person and online instruction</th>
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<td><strong>Blended</strong></td>
<td>models are hybrid models in which both the in-person and online components are well integrated. - Set in advance</td>
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<td><strong>Flex models</strong></td>
<td>have three instruction/learning modes: 1) in-person, 2) synchronous online and 3) asynchronous online.</td>
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<td>(HyFlex and BlendFlex)</td>
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Students have the FLEXibility of which modality works for them.

Designed so that all three modes are equally able to provide high-quality learning that will enable students to meet instructional objectives/intended outcomes.
Underlying Principles/Values of Flex Models

Learner CHOICE

Equivalency

Reusability

Accessibility
Learner Choice

➢ Provide meaningful alternative participation modes and enable students to choose between participation modes daily, weekly, or topically.

➢ Students have a choice of how they complete activities.

Choices = Flexibility
Reusability

➢ Utilize artifacts from learning activities in each participation mode as “learning objects’ for all students.

➢ Access to all materials and lessons
Accessibility

➢ Equip students with technology skills and equitable access to all participation modes.

Can your institution provide the necessary technologies?

➢ Materials and activities need to be accessible and usable for all students.
Equivalency

➢ Provide learning activities in all participation modes which lead to equivalent learning outcomes. What works for one student may not work for another.

➢ In all modes (asynchronous, F2F, or remote) students will: Reflect, Interact, Contribute Ideas

Let’s try Nearpod
What does a Flex Model look like?
Flex Tech: Hardware to think about

- Tools to video record an in-person session
- Electronic Whiteboard tools
- Audio Solutions: microphones, speakers, headsets, etc
- Digital Devices: access to computer devices for each learner in the in-person classroom and remotely

Not limited to:
Flex Tech: Software to think about

Not limited to:

**Web Conferencing**
- Zoom
- WebEx
- Google Meet
- Teams

**Digital Instruction/Assessment, etc**
- Jamboard
- Flipgrid
- Google Docs
- Quizziz
- Remind

**LMS**
- Canvas
- Blackboard
- Moodle
- Google Workspace

**Course/ Curriculum Management**
- Burlington English
- Essential Ed/GED Academy
- EnGen
- USA Learn
### Flex Tech Cautions

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<th>Tech Challenges</th>
<th>Some of the hardware and software may be challenging for instructors and for learners; sometimes it can be a steep learning curve.</th>
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<td>Five C’s of Tech Resilience</td>
<td>Needed both for instructors and learners: Competence, Comfort, Curiosity, Courage and Creativity</td>
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<td>Instructors as course designers</td>
<td>Instructors may need to think of themselves as helping to design courses to meet learners’ needs, not just learning the tech to “deliver” a course in the three modes.</td>
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A Few Flex Classroom Examples
Basic but it works:

- Zoom - web conferencing platform
- Camera to show students in person
- Monitors/ screen to project shared screen
Meet Gertrude, the Literacy Chicago Owl:

Joanne Telser-Frere
Director of Program Development

Gertrude
Our Cute Owl!

What can she do?
A little more high tech...

- 60" LED TV
- Rotating Camera
- Whiteboard
- Hi-def doc camera
- Projector Screen
- Computer and monitor
- Touch screen control panel
- Rotating Camera
- Projector
Disadvantages (varies with technologies used)

- Background noise
- Turning microphones on and off
- Correct position in front of camera
- Hearing each other
- Technical difficulties
- Students’ poor digital/literacy skills = disturbance for in person students (connecting, finding link, arriving late..)
- Learning curve - for instructor
- Not knowing how many students will show up in the classroom
- Cost
Advantages (varies with technologies used)

- No matter the weather, we are together (retention)
- Increasing class enrollment
- Breakout rooms - online and in person
- Work on the same lesson at the same time
- Increase participation with alternative modes
- Increased equivalent learning experiences
- Access to material after the live session
- Students can take control of their learning with choices
References


Flex models at Waubonsee Community College: https://facultydae.waubonsee.edu/instruction/delivery/flex-introduction