Blackford County Schools
Blended Learning Initiative

Blackford County Schools Mission:
- Educating students, changing the world

Blackford County Schools Five-Year Vision:
- The Vision of BCS is to become the preeminent school system in the state. Through strong instructional leadership, blended learning, rigorous instruction, and collaboration, students will possess the essential skills to own their futures.

Blackford County Schools Goals and Status:
1. 90% + passage rate for each grade level (3-10) in ELA accountability assessments

3rd ELA: 80.1%	5th ELA: 80.3%	7th ELA: 78.5%	10th ELA: 81.2%
4th ELA: 86.9%	6th ELA: 81.9%	8th ELA: 72.4%	

2. 95% + passage rate for each grade level (3-10) in Math accountability assessments

3rd Math: 82.9%	5th Math: 87.5%	7th Math: 88.8%	10th Math: 79.3%
4th Math: 86.9%	6th Math: 90.3%	8th Math: 88.9%	

3. 95% four year graduation rate (Including Transfer to Homeschool)

2012-13	**2013-14**
138/146 = 94.5%	118/131 = 90.08%
138/173 = 79.8% (w/ H.S.)	118/149 = 79.19% (w/ H.S.)

4. 50% of BCS students will graduate with 15 or more college credits
5. 95% of all BHS juniors will attain a minimum of a 21 composite on the ACT or 1550 composite on the SAT
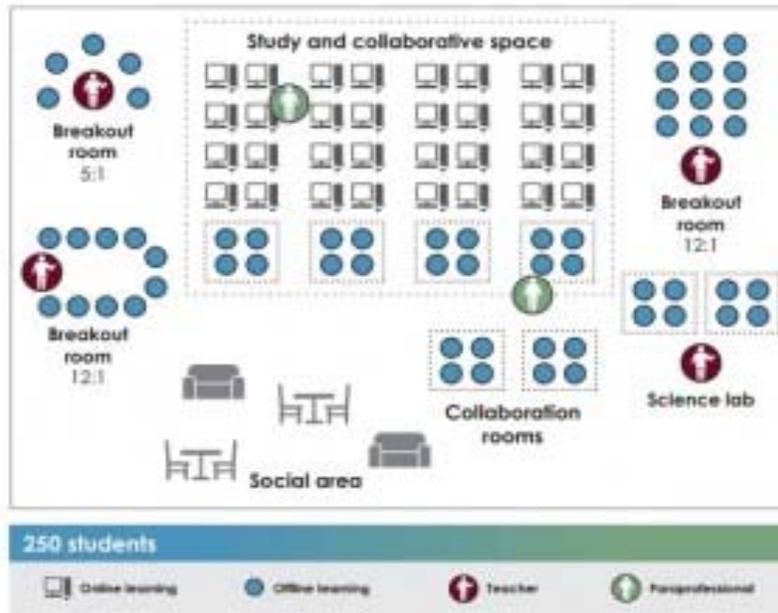
Blackford County Schools is committed to excellence in education. To that end, our district has embarked on a Blended Learning initiative. It is important to distinguish that our focus is on Blended Learning – not One-to-One. In a One-to-One initiative, the goal is to give each student a device. In contrast, our Blended Learning initiative is focused on learning – leveraging technology to do what no human can, thus, allowing the teacher to work with students in an individualized format. This focus removes the teacher as the "Sage on the Stage" and places the instructor as the individual learning coach; personalizing teaching and learning for our students.

Blended Learning offers teachers the opportunity to create innovative teaching strategies that engage students and support the knowledge and skills required of a rigorous 21st century education. Students will be presented material in a Blended Learning environment which will utilize online instruction and simulations. Students are then supported by a certified instructor and apply the learned material through engaging real-world applications.

Blackford County Schools has adopted two models of blended learning: Flex Learning Model and Station Rotation Learning Model.

FLEX LEARNING MODEL – In the Flex Learning Model, material is delivered online. Teachers support the student as needed while allowing the students to engage in content at their own pace. This model of instruction allows students to learn and practice concepts at their individualized level; thus enabling the instructor to provide support and coaching.

Figure 10. Flex model. San Francisco Flex Academy

Study and collaborative space

Breakout room 5:1

Breakout room 12:1

Breakout room 12:1

Social area

Collaboration rooms

Science lab

250 students

Online learning   Offline learning   Teacher   Paraprofessional

STATION-ROTATION MODEL – In the Station-Rotation Learning Model, students rotate between different stations on a fixed schedule; either working online or spending face-to-face time with the teacher. This model of instruction is more widely used in our elementary school buildings as it closely resembles our 90 minute reading block. In this model of instruction, students learn content from the teacher in a more traditional lecture format. Student then break out into leveled groups to work on digital content at their appropriate level or work in small groups with the instructor.

Online instruction

Teacher-led instruction

Collaborative activities and stations