As COVID-19 continues to affect education worldwide, schools and districts are continuing to develop hybrid learning initiatives for whatever the future holds.

In Spring 2020, these schools and districts were forced to shift the delivery of teaching and learning to a distance model. As schools plan re-opening strategies, there are more questions than ever. Will blended learning work for all students, or will some parents opt to keep their children home? Are teachers prepared to deliver high-quality blended learning? And how will we identify and address the learning and instructional gaps going forward?

To help your school or district evaluate technology decisions for blended learning today and into the future, here are best practices to make the transition successful:

1. **Enable Communications**
   The platforms you invest in should enable your community of stakeholders—teachers, administrators, students, and parents—to communicate about lessons, assignments, grades, discussions and updates.

2. **Focus on Instruction**
   Your classroom technology should allow you to support your district instructional model and pedagogy. Regardless of instruction being delivered in a blended learning environment, you should be able to maintain and even enhance learning with the technology used by teachers and students daily.
Drive Engagement
With less in-classroom interactions, districts need **distance learning tools to provide opportunities for teachers to still engage with their students** and ensure that students are invested in their own learning. Examples of how technology can improve engagement could be video (live or asynchronous), testing, discussions, and student choice activities.

Address Equity
Moving to a blended learning model doesn't mean falling victim to the **digital divide**. You can overcome the reality of lack of devices and internet access in the home by investing in tools that have strong mobile applications. No platform can ever solve all the challenges of digital equity and access, but selecting the right set of tools accessible on any device will give you the highest percentage of students to find success.

Unify the Experience
As your district adopts blended learning, it's a huge benefit that all the tools used for teaching and learning work together. Whether it's core education technology systems like learning management, SIS, and assessment, or narrower integrations with content and curriculum tools from Microsoft and Google, your district will be better served by implementing tools that communicate with each other.

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"Schoology is making this content easily accessible to students in an online, interactive community...Our students and teachers love Schoology. It is remarkably intuitive for teachers, students, and our technology staff, so staff development is minimal compared to other products we’ve experienced."

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