The Rise of Online and Blended Learning in Public Education

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Disruptive innovations have a unique potential to transform industries, including in the public sector.
The disruption of the computer industry provides a clear example of the classic disruptive-innovation pattern.
Online learning fits the disruptive pattern, including how it emerged and its S-curve growth trajectory.

Started in areas of “nonconsumption”

- Dropout recovery
- Credit recovery
- Homeschooling
- Advanced courses
- Rural and urban schools
- Afterschool
- Professional development

Follows the S-curve growth pattern

50% of high school courses online by 2019
Online learning delivers a different value proposition: an affordable way to customize each student’s learning.

- Traditional factory-style system
  - Integrated system architecture is tremendously expensive to customize

- Online learning
  - Modular system architecture is much more customizable
    - Different paces
    - Different background knowledge
    - Different aptitudes
Online learning is beginning to blend into brick-and-mortar classrooms and change the fundamentals of the teacher role.

Definition of Blended Learning

A formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of instruction and content, with some element of student control over time, place, path and/or pace.

and

at least in part in a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home (such as school).

90% of kids need a supervised, safe place to learn (cannot be homeschooled).
Four models of blended learning are emerging in classrooms across America, and the taxonomy is evolving in real time.
Texas can do more to encourage high-quality innovation around delivering affordable, personalized education

What are other states doing?

- Directing funding to follow students to the course level so students have a variety of modular options and can create custom learning “playlists.” (Florida, Louisiana, Idaho, Utah, Oklahoma)

- Tying funding to outcomes to incentivize course providers to deliver strong results. (Florida, Utah, Louisiana)

- Reducing input-based rules (ratios, certifications, procedures, etc.). (Ohio is starting to do strong work in this area.)

- Developing a robust on-demand assessment system. (Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina have all made good progress moving assessment online, as a start.)

- Creating a state plan for high-speed broadband connectivity and wireless networks. (Alabama, North Carolina)