BLENDED LEARNING APPROACH

bit.ly/BLapproach

Hamilton Blended Learning EdCamp
for LBS Practitioners
Adult Basic Education Association
May 22, 2019

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

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Image source: LLO http://www.laubach-on.ca/conference/past

AlphaPlus mission

To help adult education providers understand and adopt digital technology solutions that

- increase learner success
- enhance the education experience
- strengthen organizational capacity and performance.

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

Focusing on

- technology coaching services
- face-to-face and online training
- tech support
- advisory and working groups (new)
- research and resource gathering

= observing, exploring, testing … + learning from the programs and sharing what we learn as well
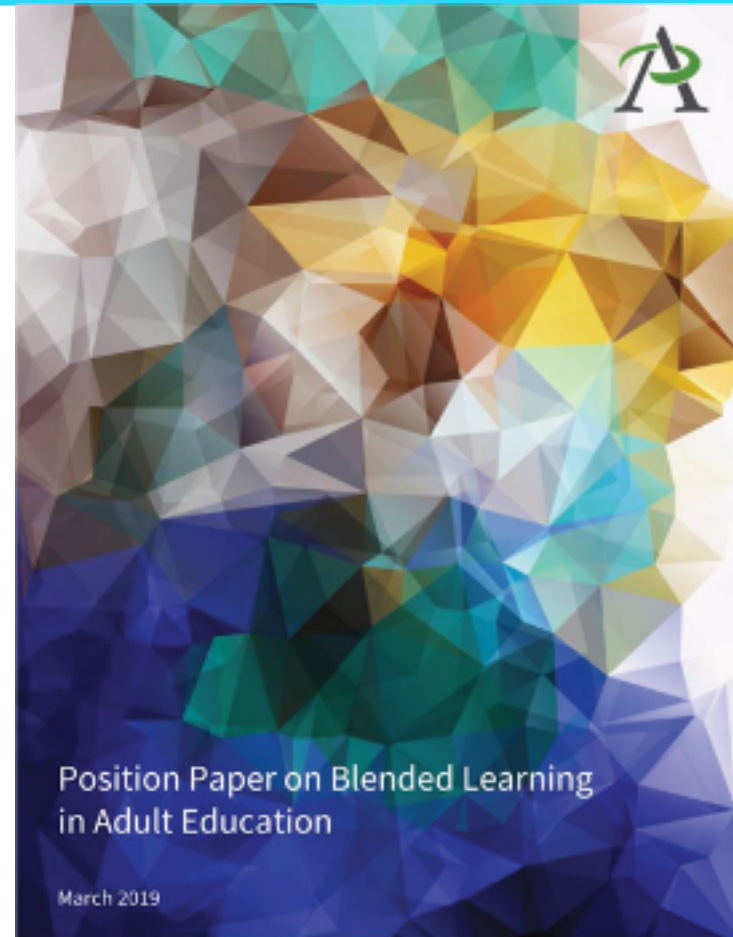
A change in perspective...

https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/

Position Paper on Blended Learning in Adult Education

Developed by Audrey Gardner, Tracey Mollins, Maria Moriarty and Matthias Sturm
March 2019

Describing our understanding of blended learning, its benefits and how adult basic education programs can be (re)conceptualized using a blended learning approach to best support learner success.

https://alphaplus.ca/download/position-paper-on-blended-learning-in-adult-education/

"Blended Learning (BL) is an approach where educators take advantage of technology and digital access for learners
to create, communicate, collaborate and apply critical thinking skills to create meaning in a connected world."

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Taking advantage of technology and digital access...

- BL is **seen as a combination of face-to-face and technology-mediated learning**
- But i **it's not** just learning how to use a tablet, navigate the internet or take online courses
- It needs to **suit learner's specific and individualized needs**; be constructed by the **educator with input from the learner**; happen **in and outside the classroom**; help learners **become self-directed in learning**

Image source: LLO http://www.laubach-on.ca/conference/past

Constructing knowledge in a connected world…

"Create, communicate, collaborate and apply critical thinking skills to construct knowledge in a connected world."

Example: Dixon Hall learners using Evernote
- Online tool to share links and resources
- Learners choosing their own learning paths, using it at home/library, suggesting new content, using devices to text with family, making presentations and teaching others

Reflection: Do you have a...

- Smartphone, tablet, computer, laptop?
- Smart thermostat?
- Fitbit or smart watch?
- Google Maps App?
- Facebook or Twitter account?

How did you learn to use them?
Why do you have them?

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

How often have you done this?

https://media.giphy.com/media/khlbyHH57rKXH4GLed/giphy.gif

Or this?

Image source: Monika Jankowska-Pacyna

Reflection: Have you ever....

- Done online banking?
- Requested a document from Canadian government like a marriage licence?
- Electronically RSVPs to an event invitation?
- Taken an online course?
- Checked into flight online?
- Ordered food via a tablet App?
- Completed a survey at an event?

Our students need to be able to "Construct knowledge in a connected world..."

Image source: Monika Jankowska-Pacyna

The pressures in integrating technology and BL approach

- Digital tools change rapidly
- Providers need to foster a culture of change and experimentation
- Provide technological and pedagogical training and support
- Encourage PD

= educators more open to change; have freedom to take risks; more confident

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

Reflection: Technology and tools to consider...

- What do we use?
- What should we use?
- Does it need to be a 'learning' tool/website/App?
- What do you use and feel would be good for learners?

Interesting example: HyperDocs

https://www.hyperdocs.co/about_hyperdocs

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

Essential principles of BL

1. The program is learner-centred
2. BL activities are relevant and useful
3. The blended program has a strong teaching presence (resources, time, expertise and decision-making)

https://alphaplus.ca/download/position-paper-on-blended-learning-in-adult-education/

Image source: Pixabay https://pixabay.com/

Reflection: How can we make that happen in the programs?

- What can you do?
- What can others do?
- What can learners do?
- Who else can get involved?

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The Benefits of BL approach

In a high-quality blended learning environment, educators and learners equally benefit from BL approach.

1. Supports learners' self-confidence and self-reliance
2. Encourages social connections and collaboration
3. Provides flexibilities
4. Helps to manage systemic inequalities.

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BL Recommendations

BL approach is more than a set of teaching and learning practices - it is a way to think about how to develop adult education programs.

1. There should be more system support for adult educators.
2. Blended learning programs should take a people-first approach.

Image source: LLO http://www.laubach-on.ca/conference/past

"By creating a system of support that puts people first, adult education providers will work responsively to ensure educators are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to create high-quality, collaborative learning experiences where learners develop confidence and competence using technology for learning, for work and in their daily lives."

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Image source: Monika Jankowska-Pacyna

Thank you!

Want to explore new tech ideas? Learn what others are doing? Contact us!

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Image source: Alan Cherwinski

Additional resources

https://alphaplus.ca/download/position-paper-on-blended-learning-in-adult-education/

https://sites.google.com/alphaplus.ca/dt4learning

https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students

https://coi.athabascau.ca/

https://www.tripleeframework.com/triple-e-printable-rubric-for-lesson-evaluation.html

Image source: Monika Jankowska-Pacyna