



Educational Management Organizations

ENGAGING AND PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Virtual schools play an increasingly vital role in today's educational landscape. They enable school districts and private schools to offer a more enriched curriculum. More importantly, they give non-traditional students the opportunity for an excellent education. These students are ill or have disabilities. They have learning challenges and social issues. They live in isolated communities. They want a school alternative so they can pursue their passion. What they have in common is the capacity to thrive in an educational setting that's highly engaging and personalized.

Effective Learning Requires Student Engagement

Not all virtual schools are created equal, and the best are those that actively engage with their students. Blackboard Collaborate makes active engagement possible in an online, interactive learning environment that appeals to today's technically fluent and "always on" learners. With Blackboard Collaborate, students work directly with teachers and classmates in a variety of modes—live classrooms, group projects, virtual field trips—regardless of geographic distance. By enabling student interactions, live learning provides a higher-quality learning experience than asynchronous courses alone. Greater student engagement translates into better grades and students who are less likely to leave school.

Student Engagement Requires Effective Teachers

The most effective EMOs are those best able to attract and retain high-quality, highly-skilled teachers. They provide teachers with a forum in which they can engage with students, connect with



Blackboard Collaborate allows us to bring the best of engagement in a face-to-face setting to life in a virtual environment. We're geared predominantly toward the education space, and Collaborate has allowed us to basically replicate the ways we engage students and create relationships. It helps us connect.

Cindy Cook
Director, School Operations and Training
K12 Inc.



peers, and closely involve parents as learning coaches. Virtual schools using Blackboard Collaborate can offer their teachers access to an environment that takes advantage of the latest in learning technology, enabling them to continually sharpen their teaching and technical skills. Blackboard Collaborate also provides a forum for live professional development and teacher training that's far more effective than asynchronous classes.

Connecting with Students Connects with Teachers

With Blackboard Collaborate, students get:

- Real-time classroom interaction with teachers
- Ability to ask questions and receive feedback
- Opportunities to collaborate on assignments and special projects
- Ability to view a recording of a class that they've missed (or want to review)
- Virtual extracurricular activities where they can engage with classmates

And teachers feel more connected with their students, are able to swap lessons and best practices with their peers in a virtual lunchroom, and can engage in virtual parent conferences and "school nights."

Designed for Education by Educators

Blackboard Collaborate goes beyond traditional web conferencing and asynchronous systems to meet the collaboration needs of K-12. Designed by educators for education, Blackboard Collaborate provides:

- **Web conferencing:** real-time interaction for teachers, students, and parent coaches in an environment that replicates many features of the physical classroom
- **Mobile collaboration:** live participation in classes and meetings from mobile device or tablet
- **Enterprise instant messaging:** one-on-one tutoring sessions and ad hoc help with assignments
- **Voice authoring:** voice commentary, instruction, and personalized coaching (especially useful for language classes)
- **LMS Integrations:** seamless integration with Moodle, Blackboard Learn, and a wide variety of other content and learning management systems

Benefits for Your Organization, Your Teachers, Your Students

Use Blackboard Collaborate to put teachers and learners together in your virtual classrooms to:

- **Improve outcomes** with more student-teacher, teacher-parent, and teacher-teacher engagement and collaboration
- **Increase student retention** with formal and informal learning, opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities, and mobile anywhere, anytime access for today's active learners
- **Improve lesson retention** by offering asynchronous lessons enriched with voice authoring and virtual tutoring and office hours, so students get the help they need, when they need it
- **Educate non-traditional students** whose learning needs aren't met in a physical setting
- **Develop and retain excellent teachers** by offering an enriched and enriching teaching experience and professional development opportunities
- **Build a vibrant education community** that's critical for student and virtual school success

Blackboard Collaborate is a phenomenal product, allowing our teachers and students to work from whatever location best suits them. The advent of mobile accessibility makes attendance even more convenient. It allows The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School to bring high-quality, live instruction to a diverse population of learners without requiring them to attend classes at a specific location.

Nicole Gianvito
Director of The Virtual High School

For more information, visit bbcollaborate.com or contact us at collaboratesales@blackboard.com.

blackboardcollaborate.com • 10 East 40th St, Floor 11 • New York, NY 10016 • 866.463.5586

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