



Authorizing High-Quality Blended Learning Charters – 8 Rules

Presentation to the National Association of Charter
School Authorizers

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Blended learning seems to be gaining strong momentum across American public education, but it poses some distinct challenges for charter school authorizers if they remain locked into their old ways of operating.

These 8 rules demonstrate how charter decisionmakers should consider modifying their program and policies to support high-quality blended learning.

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1. Blended Learning charter schools are charter schools: Appropriate rigor necessary on both bricks-and-mortar and online sides.
2. Is it Blended Learning, or just technology rich? Blended plans must articulate how technology is integrated into instruction, and how feedback loops guide and accelerate differentiated instruction for individual students.
3. Establish clear application requirements. Is a separate application necessary? Maybe not.
4. Decouple curriculum from application to allow schools flexibility to change curriculum components later as needed.
5. Encourage school-specific performance measures.
6. Plan must demonstrate applicant understands the student population it plans to serve, including Special Ed and ELL students.
7. Familiarity Helps - get decisionmakers smart on Blended Learning models and best practices.
8. When you're not sure, ask.

Thank You!

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