

Hyflex Teaching

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Expectation

Highly-skilled teachers who provide simultaneous in-person and online learning experiences, students & teachers who move seamlessly between in-person and digital interactions, high-quality technology infrastructure for teachers and students, equitable learning experiences for all, and additional support (e.g., teaching assistant) ([EduCAUSE, 2020](#)).

Reality

Half of a second grade class attends school in-person, while the other half watches the broadcast of the in-person class from home. The teacher works two-full time jobs at the same time.

HyFlex vs. Hybrid

HyFlex teaching is NOT the same as Hybrid (or “blended”) teaching. Hybrid teaching combines the benefits of in-person learning (e.g., social knowledge construction, project-based learning) with the benefits of online learning (e.g., flexibility, adaptability, personalized learning). Ideally, it’s the “[best of both worlds](#).”

K-12 Example: Students work on group projects in-person and then individually complete a [HyperDoc](#) or [choice board](#) on a computer at a station or at home.

What’s Wrong with HyFlex Teaching?

- It’s Impossible to do Well Without Training & Support: The idealized vision of a HyFlex teacher providing quality instruction for online and in-person students at the same time is “deceptively difficult to do well” ([EduCAUSE, 2020, p. 2](#)).
- It’s the Wrong Approach: Students need high-quality learning experiences (e.g., social, personalized, active, inclusive, accessible) not an educator whose attention is split between two groups in two different spaces at the same time.
- Students Will Lose Out: Some students will get more or less attention than others (e.g., students struggling with tech at home, advanced students in class, students who only show up to in-person classes, students without support at home).
- It’s Bad for Teachers’ Health: HyFlex teaching doubles educators’ workload ([This Isn’t What We Meant by Hybrid Learning Let’s Get Real. This is two jobs](#); Mason, 2020). Teaching is stressful. Teaching during a global pandemic is even more stressful. Teaching two classes in different settings at the same time during a global pandemic is an incredibly fast way to increase teacher burnout.

What Can Be Done?

- Provide Extra Support. Hire extra teachers or collaborate with local Teacher Preparation Programs to provide additional teaching support. Ask for parents/guardians or local college students to volunteer to support students online at home.
- Ensure Students Have High-Quality Access to Technology. Students with unreliable tech or Internet access will struggle even more at home and shouldn't rely on the teacher to provide tech support while they're teaching in person.
- Check on Teachers - Often! HyFlex teaching will push teachers beyond their physical and mental limits.
- Split the Workload. Designate separate online and in-person teachers so that educators don't have to split their attention and double their workload.