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Facing the Facts: opportunities and challenges of online learning

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Pamoja Education is a social enterprise working in cooperation with the IB to provide online Diploma Programme courses. The online courses, taught by highly qualified and experienced IB teachers, support the IB's initiatives to increase global access to the Diploma Programme. Pamoja Education is accredited by The Schools Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), profits benefit the McCall MacBain Foundation.



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The facts.

“As of September 2013, four states require students to complete an online course to graduate (Alabama, Florida, Michigan, and Virginia) and two more (North Carolina and Arkansas) are in the process of implementing such a requirement.”

“An increasing number of private / independent schools are including supplemental online courses and blended learning in their options for students.”

“It is clear that an increasing number of districts are making online and blended options available to their students, and that in School Year 2013-14 we believe that more than 75% of districts have some online or blended options.”

*From Keeping Pace with K-12 Online and Blended Learning
John Watson, Amy Murin, Lauren Vashaw, Butch Gemin, Chris Rapp,
October 2013*



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Should online learning be implemented in all IB World schools?



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What are the challenges?

- Reduced face-to-face support
- Students' lack of self-motivation
- Quality assurance concerns
- Limitations of technology and/or internet
- Cost



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What are the benefits?

- Become self-regulated learners
- Adapt to an international online community
- Broadens experience
- Enables students to reflect and think critically
- Learn to manage their time more efficiently
- An opportunity to collaborate with classmates and teachers from around the world
- Gain experience using web-based tools and technologies



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- How do you currently prepare your students for life after school? (university and/or employment)
- If you don't currently offer online courses, in what ways do you ensure you provide a cutting-edge education to your students?
- What is the main skill you would like students to take away from online education?
- What skills do you think students can develop by taking online courses that they may not be able to develop as much with face-to-face courses?
- What is your main concern about including online courses in your school strategy?
- How do you think online courses can broaden your students' educational experience?
- What is the main strategic advantage you think online courses provide?
- What skills do you think students can develop by taking online courses that they may not be able to develop as much with face-to-face courses?



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