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## IB AFRICA, EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

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# Facing the Facts: opportunities and challenges of online learning

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Principal

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## Fact:

- “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.”

*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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## Fact:

- In 2011, the UK government's Online Learning Task Force recommended an **investment of £100 million** in online education.

*Source: Edudemic, 2012*



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## Fact:

- There is a strong effort to digitize school life in the Middle East, which is driving the e-learning in this area.

*E-Learning Market Trends & Forecast 2014 -  
2016 Report 14*

*A report by Docebo | March 2014*



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## Fact:

- The e-learning market in Eastern Europe expected to reach **\$1.2billion** in revenue by 2016, with a 16.9% annual growth rate.

*E-Learning Market Trends & Forecast 2014 -  
2016 Report 14*

*A report by Docebo | March 2014*





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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)
- What is the main skill you would like students to take away from online education?
- 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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# Thank you.

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