

## Flexible Pathways Talking Points -Online, Blended and Hybrid Learning

Is this Flexible Pathway option the best choice? Below are prompting questions to be used with the [Vermont Flexible Pathways Tool](#) to assist in a conversation to determine if this pathway is the best fit. These sources do not represent an exhaustive list but are intended to provide a basis for discussion.

### What is Online Learning?

Online learning is a method of education where students learn in a fully virtual environment—enabling students from different geographical areas to engage with an academic institution, other students online and learn flexibly at their own pace. Online learning has been a historically flexible pathway in Vermont that has proven to be highly successful for many students. School leaders and teams can offer students access to learning pathways supported by entities such as VTVLC that use licensed Vermont educators to deliver an array of instructional programming.

### What is Blended Learning?

Blended learning combines in-person teaching with asynchronous learning methods, where students work on online exercises and watch instructional videos during their own time. Online learning is a component of blended learning. This method of learning is usually done in a traditional brick-and-mortar building.

### What is Hybrid Learning?

Hybrid learning is an educational model where some students attend class in person while others join the class virtually from home. Educators teach remote and in-person students at the same time using tools like video conferencing hardware and software.

### Why Online, Blended or Hybrid Learning?

- Learn, Virtually, Anywhere
- Degree exploration/Career Exploration
- Ready to explore subjects not offered in your local high school
- Increased rigor/academic challenge.
- Seek a diverse learning environment
- Prepare for post-secondary learning where 1 out of 4 classes is online.
- Flexible Learning Option that allows you to participate in a Work Based Placement

### Are you ready for Online, Blended or Hybrid Learning?

- Social emotional reflection
  - Self awareness - Demonstrates self-advocacy, self motivated
  - Social awareness – Understanding social and ethical norms
  - Self management – Critical thinking, problem solving
  - Responsible decision making – Time management
  - Relationship skills – Communication, networking

### Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

[Insert Staff or Team Name], [Division Name], at [Email] or [Phone]

- Learning environment reflection
  - I am pretty good at using the computer
  - I enjoy technology
  - I am comfortable with doing searches, setting bookmarks, and downloading files
- Academic Reflection
  - Course aligns with high school transcript.
  - Course aligns with learning goals in PLP
  - Attendance record
  - The IEP team or the 504 team approves.
    - Updated IEP/504 documents to reflect online learning
    - Become familiar with accommodations/modifications available in an online course
- Prerequisite course(s) completed.
  - Enroll in Introduction to Online Learning with VTVLC

### **Do you have?**

- Parental, Community, and College support outside of secondary school.
  - VTVLC Parent Handbook
  - VTVLC Student Handbook
  - VTVLC's Supporting Online Students for School Counselors / Coordinators
- Adequate technology and internet access.
- Time is built into the school schedule to work on the course.

### **Have you?**

- Discussed this with your family
- Completed the student survey
- Spoken with your school counselor or advisor
- Located online or in-person college resources

### **Have you thought about?**

- Time management tools you will use to balance a OBL opportunity with a desired dual enrollment course or sport/club activity and meeting personal obligations at home and/or an outside job