



CLASSROOM SETUP: KEY ELEMENTS

Creating a classroom environment conducive for blended learning is critical for students to succeed. Each student needs the appropriate amount of learning space and furniture to feel safe and successful. Here are the essential elements for setting up a blended learning classroom:

Element	Description
Spatial Separation (between Computers and Small Groups)	At the very basic level, you want students on the computers to be able to focus on the computers without hearing your lesson, and you want students in your group to be focused on you and not their friends on the computer.
Space for (at least) 50/50 Split	<p>You may end up splitting your class into more than two groups, and there are certainly benefits to that, but at minimum you need to be able to split the class in half.</p> <p>This does not need to be a separate, additional space in the classroom; rather it can be a portion of the space that students use for whole group instruction. In this instance, a teacher can pull students closer to the board and have them sit as a group, rather than in their traditional assigned seat. If the classroom has enough space for a separate small group area, a small circle, u-shaped, or kidney table works well. Look here for photo examples.</p>
Computer Learning Stations	<p>Computers stations should be separate from the teacher-led instruction space. Computer stations should be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Numbered, and students should be assigned to a specific seat. <i>[Computer #5 should be placed at seat #5; headphones should also be numbered and placed with the correlated computer]</i>2. Wall-facing, oriented so that the teacher can see the screens while teaching3. Spreadout, so that students have enough space <i>[Recommendation: about 1.5 to 2 feet of space per student]</i> <p>In addition, the computer station area should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Computer behavioral expectations5. Troubleshooting directions
Clear “Lanes” for Movement	Regardless of how you transition from whole groups to small groups and back, your classroom needs to have clear lanes to facilitate movement so that students can easily and safely move between stations.