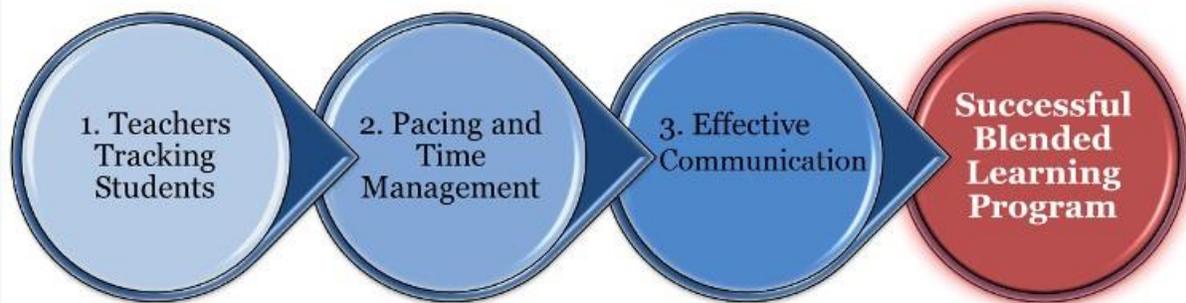# 3 Ways a SIS Enhances Blended Learning

Infusing technology into the classroom opens up an entire new world of research and learning resources. Think of a blended learning program as a microcosm of new opportunities. Suddenly, course offerings explode to unimaginable heights. Students can take a multitude of accelerated or specialized courses at other institutions without leaving the familiarity of their classroom. Additionally, a student can catch up on missed credits in order to graduate on time. It's an amazing opportunity to increase students' potential and achievement exponentially. Tracking the data to demonstrate student progress is crucial in a student-centric environment. In order to track their learning gains, it's necessary to have systems in place that that can measure those gains.

Using established metrics and an effective student information system that is configured accordingly will reveal results.   In addition, the use of robust tracking tools enables administrators and faculty to monitor student progress, make changes to the program or curriculum, or reach out to students as needed. These three tools built into the SIS are sure to enhance any blended learning program.

1. Teachers Tracking Students

With the data collected from the learning expansion that blended learning affords, educators are given the chance to intervene strategically, defying the notion that blended learning is just a means of replacing teachers with a device. On the contrary, tracking student progress and pacing at a granular level allows educators to identify trends in learning progression such as identifying areas of success or difficulty in a single student, a class, a section of classes, a grade, or the entire institution. This places the teacher/professor in a position of power aided by the device. Faculty is critical in facilitating an effective blended learning program.

2. Pacing and Time Management

With the proper systems in place, students can benefit from becoming aware of their study habits and learning trends based on the collection of data imported into the student information system from the LMS. Essential life and professional skills like time management and communication are integral to a blended learning program. Therefore, while enrolled in a self-paced online

course, for example, students are also simultaneously engaged in mastering time management and communication skills because they are responsible for completing their work on their own. In a traditional K12 classroom setting, these skills are often managed and initiated by the teacher rather than an expression of partnership between teacher and student. Becoming responsible for deadlines is as much an exercise in mastering crucial life skills as it is in academic success and progress.

3. Effective Communication

Constant school – student communication, particularly in the first two weeks of classes, has been proven to increase engagement and lead to increased retention. Having various intuitive communication features embedded in the SIS, such as a two- way messaging, an announcement board, and SMS texting will facilitate open lines of communications. It has long been said that first impressions matter. New students often feel alone and challenged, therefore being able to communicate with school staff during those first crucial days can make all the difference.

Blended learning is an entirely new challenge for some, but having the technology to support these efforts will improve chances for success.