RAISING BLENDED LEARNERS

A RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS® INITIATIVE

State Board of Education Presentation

November 17, 2015

Blended Learning Defined

A formal education program in which a student learns at least in part online with some element of control over time, place, path or pace and at least in part at a supervised brick and mortar location. The modalities along each student's learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience. (Horn & Staker, *Blended 2014*)

1. Student learns in <u>part online</u> and <u>in part at a brick and mortar</u> location

1. When learning online, Student has an element of <u>control over: time, place, path & pace</u>

Video: <u>6 Reasons We Love Blended Learning</u>

Why Blended in K-12

Across the country, schools are excited about the potential to achieve Student Centered Learning <u>at scale</u> via the support of Blended Learning.

- What do we mean by a Student Centered School System:

    Personalized ✛ Competency Based ═ Student Centered

- Schools are achieving Student Centered Learning in limited instances via differentiation, 1:1 tutoring, etc.. While academic results in these scenarios are strong, suggesting that we should do more, the practice is not scalable. Schools do not have the financial or human capital resources to achieve this type of Student Centered Learning for all of their students in all schools.

- Until now! Blended Learning is the way to achieve Student Centered Learning *<u>at scale in a financially sustainable way.</u>*
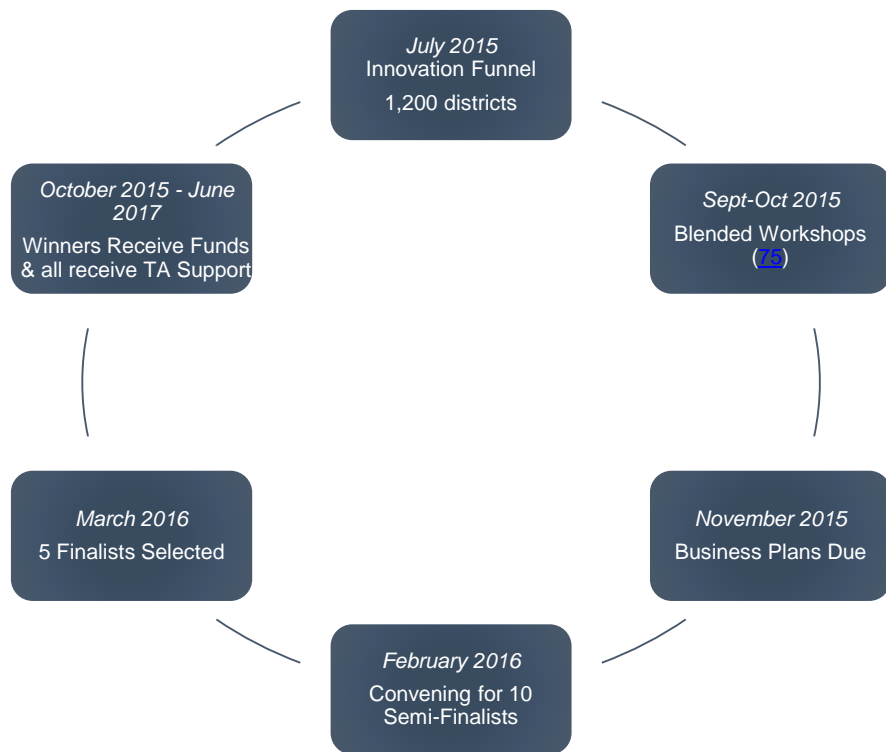
3

Blended Learning Nationally & in Texas

School districts and charter school networks are emerging as "hubs" of Blended Learning innovation in cities and states across the country.

Two of the most prominent national efforts supporting Blended/Personalized/Student Centered learning are:
- Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC)
- Next Generation System Initiative (NGSI)

Raise Your Hand Texas: Raising Blended Learners is the most promising effort to scale Blended learning statewide!

RYHT Raising Blended Learners Initiative

July 2015
Innovation Funnel
1,200 districts

Sept-Oct 2015
Blended Workshops
(75)

November 2015
Business Plans Due

February 2016
Convening for 10
Semi-Finalists

March 2016
5 Finalists Selected

October 2015 - June 2017
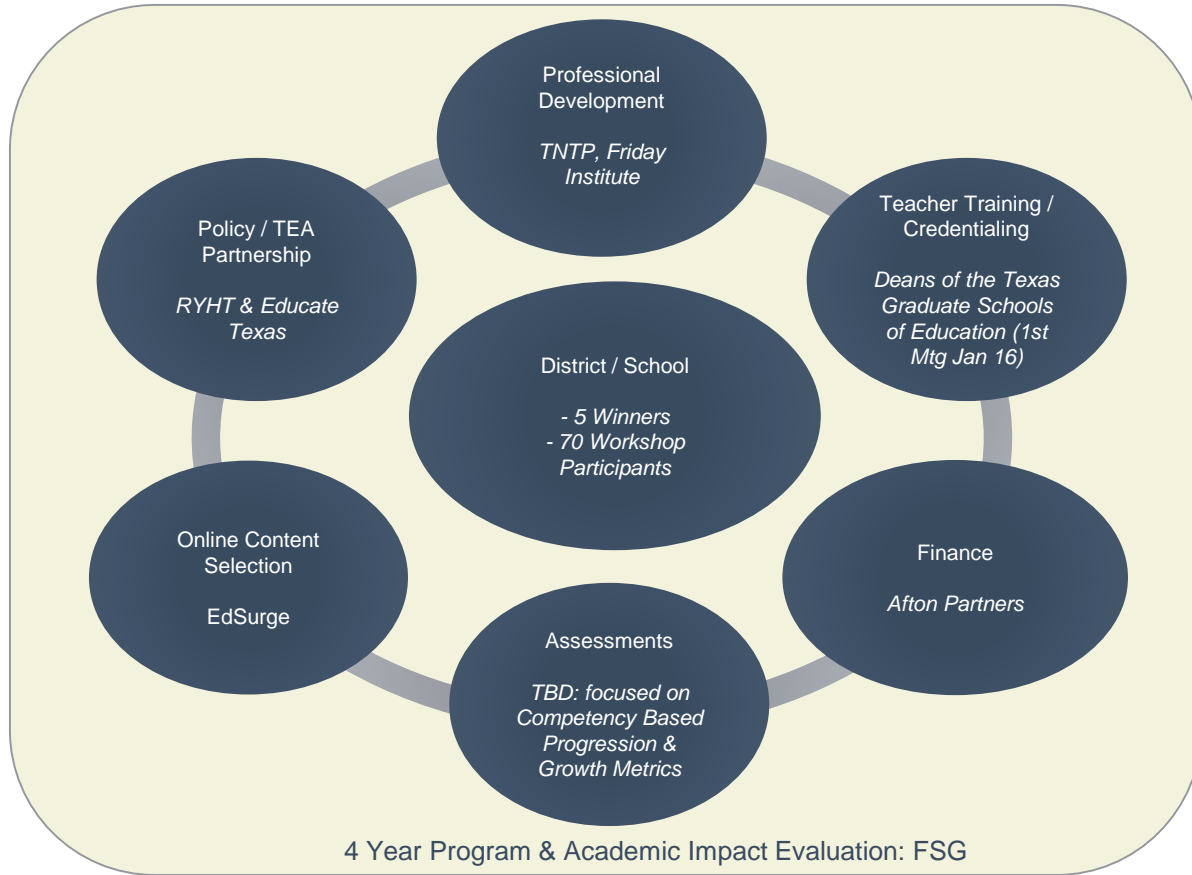Winners Receive Funds & all receive TA Support

Objective: Showcase strategies for using BL to improve student achievement across diverse student demographics and geographic regions in the state, particularly among schools and districts with persistent achievement gaps.

Awards: 5 winners receive up to $500k + technical assistance

TA Ecosystem: Series of targeted supports for winners (5) and non-winners (70) – professional development, technology assistance, implementation consultation

Evaluation: FSG conducting independent strategic evaluation of process and outcomes

5

Initial Ecosystem Providers

Professional Development

TNTP, Friday Institute

Teacher Training / Credentialing

Deans of the Texas Graduate Schools of Education (1st Mtg Jan 16)

Policy / TEA Partnership

RYHT & Educate Texas

District / School

*- 5 Winners
- 70 Workshop Participants*

Online Content Selection

EdSurge

Finance

Afton Partners

Assessments

TBD: focused on Competency Based Progression & Growth Metrics

Regional "Hubs" Emerging

Austin

Regional "Hubs" Emerging

N. Texas

Regional "Hubs" Emerging

Houston

4 Year Program & Academic Impact Evaluation: FSG

6

Appendix Slides

Definitions:

Personalized

- *Tailor the instructional environment - what, when, how and where students learn - to address the individual needs, skills and interests of each student.*

- *Students have the opportunity to take ownership over their learning.*

- *Student needs drive the design of flexible learning environments.*

- *All operational elements - staffing plans, space utilization, and schedules- respond and adapt to students' goals.*

Competency Based

- *Students advance upon mastery.*

- *Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower students.*

- *Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience for students.*

- *Students receive rapid, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.*
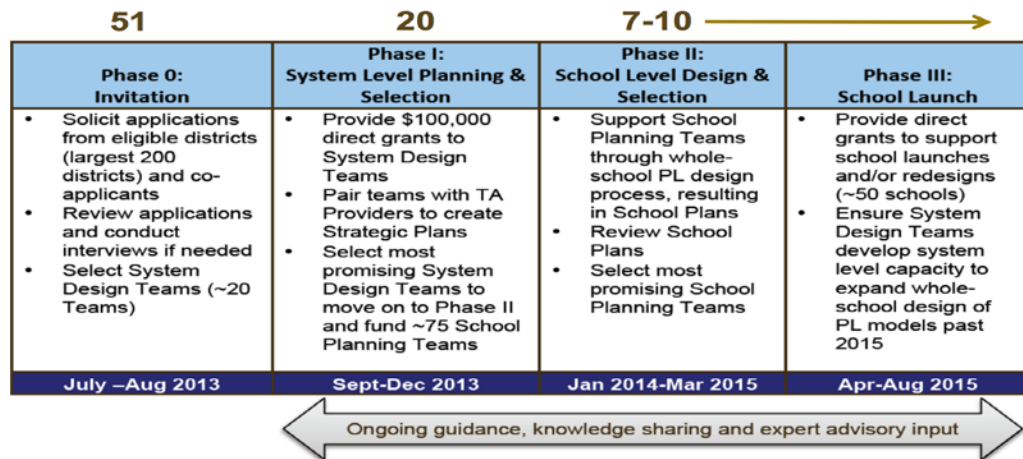
8

Next Generation Systems Initiative (NGSI)

In 2011, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invited 300 school districts to apply for a $100k "planning grant" to explore how they would implement Student Centered Learning (calling it "personalized learning") in their district. 51 accepted the opportunity!

In 2012, 20 of the 51 were awarded the $100k planning grant, designed a pilot and described how they would scale the pilot across the district if it "worked."

In 2014, 5 districts were awarded $ to implement their pilots (first school pilots were launched this fall!!):

- Dallas ISD
- Henry County, GA
- Lake County Schools, FL
- Pinellas County Schools, FL
- Riverside Unified School District, CA

The NextGen Systems Initiative

51	20	7-10 →	
Phase 0: Invitation	**Phase I: System Level Planning & Selection**	**Phase II: School Level Design & Selection**	**Phase III: School Launch**
• Solicit applications from eligible districts (largest 200 districts) and co-applicants • Review applications and conduct interviews if needed • Select System Design Teams (~20 Teams)	• Provide $100,000 direct grants to System Design Teams • Pair teams with TA Providers to create Strategic Plans • Select most promising System Design Teams to move on to Phase II and fund ~75 School Planning Teams	• Support School Planning Teams through whole-school PL design process, resulting in School Plans • Review School Plans • Select most promising School Planning Teams	• Provide direct grants to support school launches and/or redesigns (~50 schools) • Ensure System Design Teams develop system level capacity to expand whole-school design of PL models past 2015
July –Aug 2013	**Sept-Dec 2013**	**Jan 2014-Mar 2015**	**Apr-Aug 2015**

Ongoing guidance, knowledge sharing and expert advisory input

Next Generation Learning Challenges ([NGLC](#))

Over the last 3 years, NGLC (funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) has funded [41 schools](#) to pilot Student Centered Learning through their Breakthrough Schools for College Readiness program.

Last year, the Broad Foundation and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation partnered with the Gates Foundation to fund [6 Regional Hubs](#) to incubate & support Student Centered Learning in their regions: Oakland, DC, New England, New Orleans, Colorado, LEAP Chicago. As of June 2015, 49 more schools in these regions were awarded a grant to develop Student Centered pilots!

The work we are currently doing in Texas is not formally a part of NGLC or NGSI, but we work closely with NGLC & model much of the work we are doing off of their lessons learned.