

The Modern Classrooms Project empowers educators to meet every learner's needs through its blended, self-paced, mastery-based instructional model.

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OVERVIEW

The Modern Classrooms Project empowers educators with their innovative instructional model to ensure all learners are appropriately challenged and supported every day. The instructional model has three components: blended instruction, self-pacing, and mastery-based learning. Implementation of the model fosters strong learner–teacher relationships, builds critical learning strategies that underpin self-direction, increases confidence and love of learning, and increases content mastery. The model also leverages technology and is best implemented in contexts where educators have support to innovate and reimagine instruction.



The Modern Classrooms Project has reached over 53,000 educators in 169 countries. In order to support implementation, they offer resource toolkits, professional development, one-on-one coaching and consulting, and cohort learning communities, to equip educators with the skills, resources, and community required to sustain and improve upon this customized instructional approach.

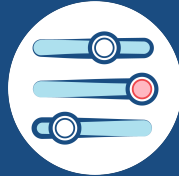
► [What is a Modern Classroom?](#) ► [Excellence in Classroom Innovation](#)

What Makes This Model Innovative?



High Expectations with Unlimited Opportunities

In a Modern Classroom, work and learning is assessed on the degree of mastery. Learners have *multiple opportunities* to revise, rework, and relearn content until they can confidently show proficiency in their learning objectives.



Customization

With the Modern Classrooms Project, teachers in *any* school, district, grade-level, and content area can build customizable pathways for learning that blend modalities and allow for self-pacing based on their mastery of content.



Anytime, Anywhere Learning

The Modern Classroom Project's model makes class content and materials available for learners to access, complete, and submit from *anywhere* at *any time*. This is especially useful in classrooms with highly diverse learning levels or absenteeism and ensures learners do not fall significantly behind.

DESIGN

Goals

The Modern Classrooms Project focuses on improving teacher practices in order to better learning experiences.

Content Mastery	Learners progress through units at flexible paces based on their mastery of content.
Learning Strategies	Learners reflect and build skills to become self-directed, metacognitive learners.
Foster a Love of Learning	Learners feel like they enjoy learning when they better understand lessons and content.
Confidence	Learners believe that they are capable of learning anything and finding the resources they need to learn new content.
Strong Learner-Teacher Relationships	Learners feel appropriately challenged, seen, and supported by their teacher.

Experience

The Modern Classroom Project's instructional model rests on the appropriate interaction of blended instruction, self-paced learning, and mastery-based learning. [▶A Student-Centered Model of Blended Learning](#)

Blended Instruction

Modern Classrooms teachers implement various components of blended learning models that empower young people to own their learning. [▶Using Blended Learning to Teach Cursive](#) This model allows learners to access curriculum from anywhere at any time, increases learner-centeredness in classrooms, and frees up teacher time to work with learners in small groups and 1:1. Additionally:

- Learners work at their own pace by watching teacher-created videos and completing practice activities geared toward their level
 - Learners experience flexible learning structures in the class
 - Every learner accesses content the way that best suits their needs
 - Teachers spend time in class supporting learners based on their levels of mastery.
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Self-Paced Learning

Self-paced structures allow learners to work at a speed that is customized to their level of mastery and keep learning continuous by creating access to content from anywhere. [▶Making Self-Paced Learning Work for Younger Kids](#) Learners in Modern Classrooms build self-confidence and self-regulation skills by deciding the pace of their learning within a unit of study:

- Learners work at their own pace by watching or rewatching teacher-created videos
 - Learners have the time they need to learn
 - Learners set and monitor their pace and goals using learner-facing and public trackers
 - Learners progress to more advanced material only when they are ready.
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Mastery-Based Learning

Research-backed best practices for mastery-based learning ensure that learners demonstrate proficiency before moving on to the next objective. Learners progress through lessons based on their proficiency with each lesson's content knowledge or skill. This means that exit tickets, quizzes, and other formative assessments are regularly evaluated, and learners receive timely feedback on their level of mastery:

- Learners internalize that progress is contingent on mastery, not completion
 - Learners can redo tasks, rewatch videos, practice more, and/or revise assessments until they show mastery
 - Learners are not penalized for wrong answers while learning, but instead have the opportunity to continue learning until they master the content.
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Supporting Structures

The Modern Classrooms Project ensures learners can master learning at their own pace with the support of blended modalities. Though the model can be implemented across various learning environments, certain school supports—such as curriculum, instruction, adult learning and more— will support the implementation of this model.



CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & ASSESSMENT

This instructional model can leverage curriculum for all grade levels and across any content area.

This is possible because the Modern Classrooms Project does not provide set curricula, instructional materials, or assessments and instead builds educators' capacity to leverage existing curriculum to create original instructional videos. [Building a Great Screencast Blog](#) For example, an instructional coach in Lynn, MA, used the Modern Classroom model to create a series of PD modules on blended learning: [Blended Learning PD Modules](#). Additional resources to support implementation including exemplar units and webinars can be found on MCP's website. [Resource Bank](#)



ADULT ROLES, HIRING, & LEARNING

The Modern Classrooms Project helps educators maximize their capacity in the classroom and offers training and mentorship.

It empowers teachers to shift to a more learner-centered teaching and learning approach. Doing this well requires teachers to create instructional materials and systems that support learners' self-paced learning, as well as build strong small group and one-on-one facilitation skills. [How to Set Up Mastery Based Grading](#) [How to Create a Self-Paced Classroom](#)

Educators learn these new skills through opt-in professional development experiences and training programs. The Modern Classrooms Project offers mentorship from teachers implementing the model, an online professional learning community of active members, and regular webinars and opportunities for learning. [Virtual Mentorship Program](#) This model is the best fit for teachers who deeply desire meaningful change and innovation in their classrooms and have the learning and planning time needed to understand and implement the Modern Classroom approach. [Sample Feedback Journal](#) [Distinguished Modern Classroom Educator](#) [Welcome from our Mentors](#) [Resource Bank](#)



This model can be implemented in learning blocks of any length of time.

Just keep in mind that learners must have an adequate amount of time to watch videos and work on content during class time, and educators must have flexibility with their scope and sequence to account for learners who need more or less time to master skills.

SCHEDULE & USE OF TIME

Browse instructional videos, self-paced structures, and other artifacts from actual Modern Classrooms: [Modern Classrooms at a Glance](#)



TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Modern Classroom Project's approach works best when each learner has a device such as a laptop or tablet (1:1) as well as access to reliable internet, but it can be implemented with little digital content as well.

Learners should have access to the same software, although teachers can determine how much supplemental learning software is needed, as well as which programs. It's important to note that educators can still support different learners by making materials accessible in a variety of non-digital formats.

The MCP model also works with little access to technology in class and at home; however, having access to a learning management system supports accurate tracking and monitoring of learner progress.

IMPLEMENTATION

Supports Offered

[The Modern Classrooms Project](#) is an educational non-profit committed to re-shaping teaching and learning, and there is no paywall to implement or learn the model. Additional supports like mentorship, feedback on instructional materials, direct coaching, and credentials are available for a fee.

Free Online Course

Free



Members receive open and anytime enrollment into a free, self-paced Free Online Course, where they can:

- Access exemplar content and resources
- Connect with an online cohort of educators
- Access online webinars
- Learn to implement the MCP in their classrooms

[Learn More](#)

Virtual Mentorship

Cost Associated



Members receive:

- Virtual, one-to-one coaching
- Access to all content and tutorials
- Feedback on instructional materials
- Monthly cohort meetings of educators worldwide
- Self-paced programming (3 months during the school year and a 5-week Virtual Summer Institute)

- Certified credentials

Contact the Partnerships Team (contact below) to learn more about additional levels of support.

[Learn More](#)

School & District Partnerships

Cost Associated



School and district partnerships are customizable and vary based on needs. Offerings usually consist of:

- Programming and tracking for large cohorts of educators designed to support school or district priorities
- Implementation support including on-site visits, virtual implementer discussions, and coaching from Modern Classroom staff
- Partnership with a Modern Classroom staff member to monitor progress and feedback

[Learn More](#)

Reach

53,000+

Educators

169+

Countries

200+

School and District Partners

Impact

Numerous studies provide evidence of positive outcomes for learners and teachers who participate in the Modern Classroom model. For more information, check out the following reports: [Impact One-Pager](#) [John Hopkins University Report, 2019](#) [John Hopkins University Report, 2020](#) [John Hopkins University Report, 2021](#) [2022 Impact Report](#) [Modern Classrooms Project Impact](#)

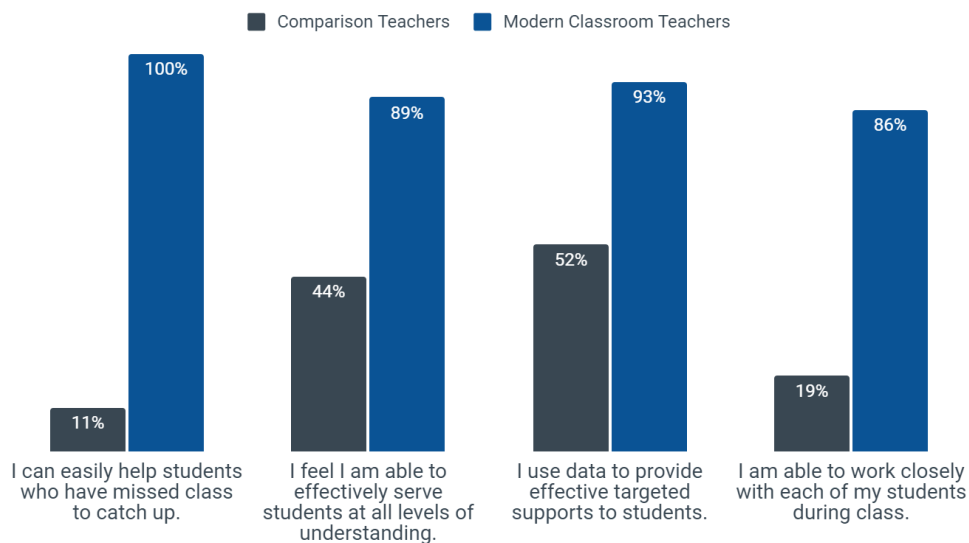
Compared to their non-MCP peers, Modern Classroom learners felt more capable of teaching themselves new content (John Hopkins University, 2021; John Hopkins University 2020), and they believed they had stronger relationships with their teachers (John Hopkins University, 2021).

Teachers who implement the MCP model show significant growth in their competency around key parts of the instructional model and feel they can set clearer visions for technology use as well as better serve *all* learners.

- Compared to their non-MCP peers, MCP teachers felt significantly more capable of helping absent learners catch up, more confident in serving learners at all levels, and believed they could work closely with learners during class time (John Hopkins University 2020; John Hopkins University, 2021).
- Teachers in the Virtual Mentorship Program and Free Online Course show significant growth in competency related to blended instruction, self-pacing structures, and mastery-based learning (John Hopkins University 2020; John Hopkins University, 2021).
- Teachers also articulate clear visions for how they will use technology to help learning (John Hopkins University, 2021).

Impact on Teachers

survey responses from 55 teachers, January 2020, all results significant ($p < 0.001$)



Contact

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RESOURCES



[What is a Modern Classroom?](#)

An overview of the Modern Classrooms blended-learning model.



[DCPS Excellence in Classroom Innovation.](#) [Kareem Farah](#)

Feature on CEO and co-founder Kareem Farah's 2017 Excellence in Classroom Innovation award.



[A Student-Centered Model of Blended Learning](#)

Watch the original Edutopia video about the Modern Classrooms Project's blended, self-paced, mastery-based model.



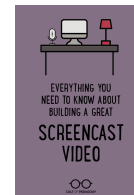
[Using Blended Learning to Teach Cursive, Edutopia](#)

See how Myers Elementary teacher Susan Bouslough is using the Modern Classrooms model to teach cursive.



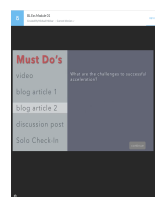
[Making Self-Paced Learning Work for Younger Kids, Edutopia](#)

See elementary Modern Classrooms in action, where young learners drive their own learning.



[Everything You Need to Know About Building A Great Screencast Video](#)

Practical how-to guidance on how to best create screencast and watch-at-home videos with the MCP model.



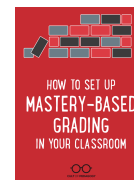
[Blended Learning Professional Development Module](#)

This sample professional development module introduces educators to the MCP's blended learning model and its importance to equity and inclusion.



[Resource Bank](#)

Explore and access all that Modern Classroom Project has to offer on this teacher-facing resource hub.



[Setting Up Mastery-Based Grading in Your Classroom](#)

Practical how-to guidance on how to shift mindsets toward mastery-based learning, and practical suggestions for setting up and grading assignments.



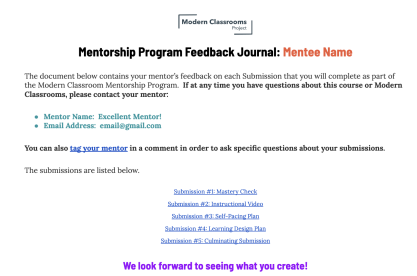
[How to Create a Self-Paced Classroom](#)

Practical how-to guidance on introducing and sustaining self-direction and pacing with the MCP model.



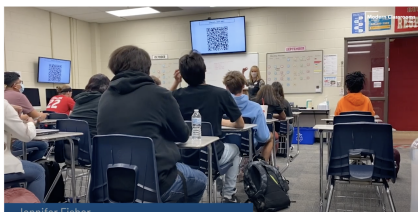
[Virtual Mentorship](#)

This page shows how the MCP offers an expert mentor, classroom-ready content, and an active learning community to get started with this model.



[Sample Feedback Journal](#)

Explore sample feedback journal entries that are part of the MCP's Mentorship Program. This entry has tons of additional MCP resources to explore.



[Distinguished Modern Classroom Educator](#)

Listen to Distinguished Modern Classrooms Educator Jennifer Fisher of Tulsa, OK, share her implementation of and reflection on the model.



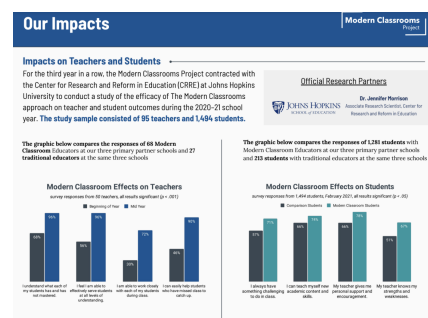
[Welcome from our Mentors](#)

Watch MCP Expert Mentors welcome new members to their Summer Institute and learn more about what it means to be a mentee.



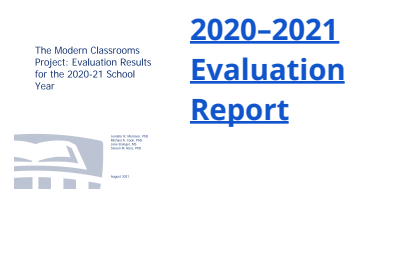
[Modern Classrooms at a Glance](#)

A compilation of example MCP equator experiences with units, lessons, and implementation stories to showcase the types of learning that can happen with this model.



[Impact Report 1-Pager](#)

Explore a summary of the Modern Classrooms Projects' 2020-21 school year outcomes.



The MCP's most recent evaluation report, which suggests positive perceptions of the model. Download the others here:

- [2018-2019 Report](#)
- [2019-2020 Report](#)



[2022 Impact Report](#)

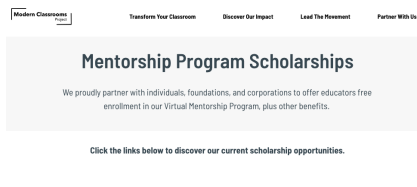
Modern Classrooms Projects' annual report with details on program impact from the year 2022.



Our Impact

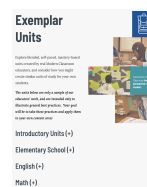
[Modern Classrooms Project Impact](#)

Learn more about the impact of the Modern Classrooms Project.



[Mentorship Scholarships](#)

Learn more about scholarship opportunities available to educators interested in the Mentorship Program.



[Exemplar Units](#)

A curated set of blended, self-paced, mastery-based units created by real Modern Classroom educators.



[Modern Classrooms Project Podcast](#)

Discussions on education, teaching, and learning from the perspective of the Modern Classrooms Project.



[Modern Classrooms Project Facebook Group](#)

Join 13000+ educators in the MCP Private Facebook Group!



[See a Co-Taught Modern Classroom in Action](#)

Watch MCP math teachers and learners in Robbinsdale Area schools engage in the “controlled chaos” of an effective Modern Classroom



[How Modern Classrooms Boosts Student Achievement](#)

Read about the impact of the Modern Classrooms Project at Game Development Design School, where implementing the model has led to significant growth in achievement scores.



[A Better Way to Do Online Learning](#)

January 2022 *Boston Globe* article featuring the Modern Classrooms Project as a better way to approach teaching and learning in a pandemic.