

CAN THE CANNED STUFF

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PREVALENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Today's iGeneration youth spend most of their waking hours using technology
- On average, they spend 7 hours and 38 minutes a day interacting with a digital device
- This average includes school days. If you include multi-tasking hours (using more than one device, i.e., texting while listening to iTunes) teens spend 10 hours and 45 minutes a day consuming content and interacting with digital devices. TV accounts for four of these digital media hours teens consume a day

TRENDS

- Technology integration
(VR, 1:1 Programs, BYOD)
- Personalized learning
- Virtual delivery



WHY INVEST IN ONLINE
LEARNING?

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS TODAY

- Virtual schools have become the new economically sound ventures in the education industry, especially in higher education, and their brick-and-mortar counterparts are developing virtual centers and programs to remain competitive and expand their markets.
 - This is creating a trickle down effect at the K-12 level

QUESTION: WHY VIRTUAL LEARNING?

- Many school administrators are 'digital immigrants' who will ask the following questions:
 1. What is the benefit of a virtual school over a traditional brick and mortar school?
 2. Is there an increased benefit to the online student over the traditional student?
 3. What is the cost of running a virtual school?

Course Schedule Options

<Student Playlist >

MY LEARNING

Spanish III

Traditional - on campus

Aquatic Science

Traditional - on campus

Economics

Traditional - on campus

English IV

Online - Virtual Learning Academy

Online course in place of traditional F2F course

<Student Playlist >

MY LEARNING

U.S. Government

Traditional - on campus

PreCalculus

Traditional - on campus

English IV

Traditional - on campus

Astronomy

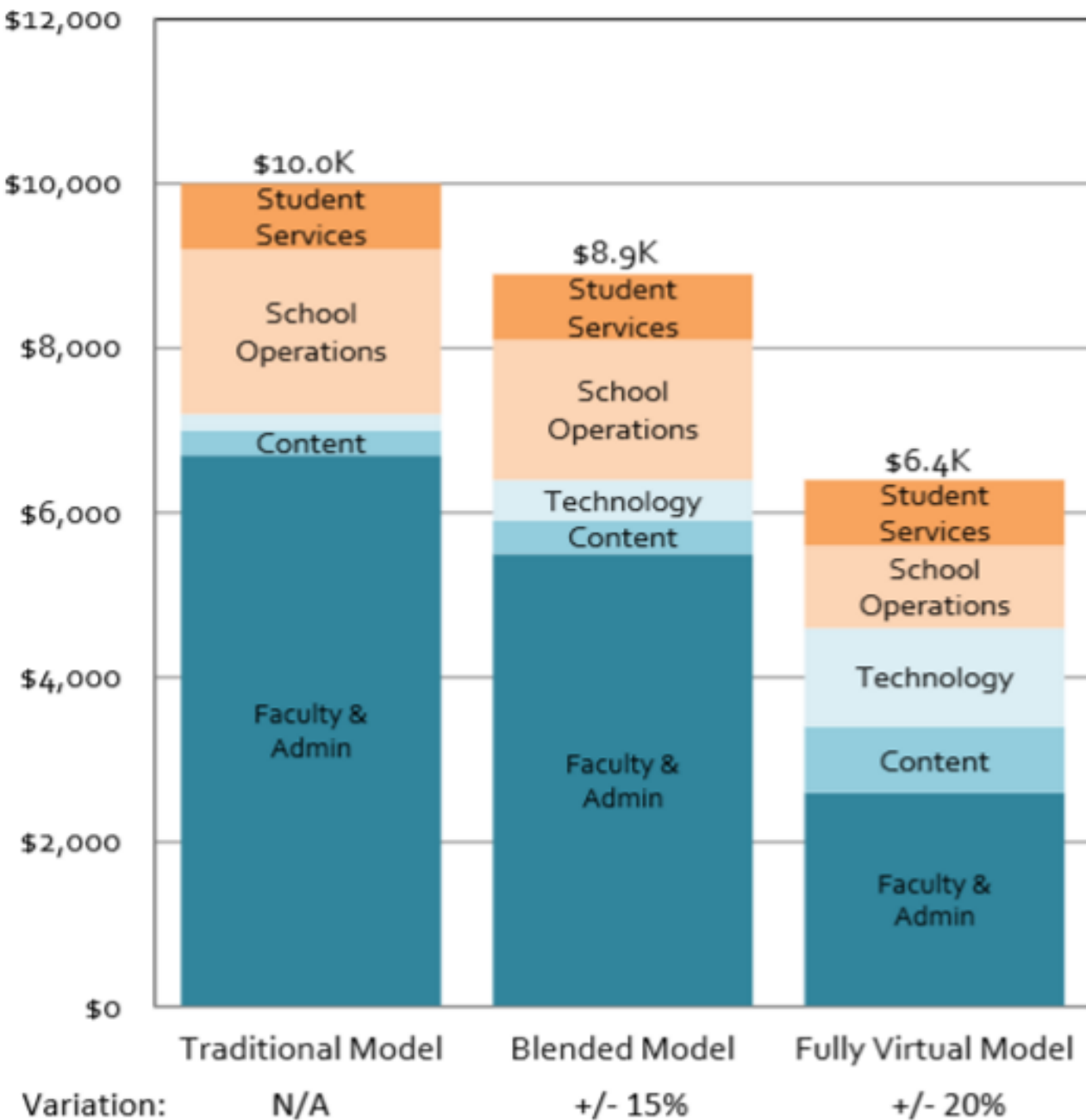
Traditional - on campus

Economics

Online - Virtual Learning Academy

Online course in addition to regular schedule

Figure 1. Estimated Per-Pupil Expenditures



COSTS OF LEARNING

COSTS

- Local schools - \$300 per course (average)
- TxVSN – costs vary from \$250-400 per course
- UT High School - \$250+ per course
- Texas Tech ISD - \$190 per course, with students purchasing textbooks
- A school district switching from face to face summer school to online only (6-12) saw the following savings:
 - Costs
 - 2016 - \$378,000
 - 2017 - \$150,000



HOW CAN COURSE BE CREATED
BASED ON PREEEXISTING
TECHNOLOGY?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

- Platforms
 - Canvas
 - Moodle
 - Blackboard
 - Google Classroom
 - Edmodo
 - ...and more
- You have already paid for it, why aren't you using it?

EXPLORE!

- Many teachers are unaware of what their platforms truly offer
 - Chatrooms
 - Online office hours
 - Quizzes with automatic grading a feedback
 - Tests that will vary questions so students cannot copy each other
 - Ability to insert multimedia to create variety
- Professional development is a must
 - Continuing support is also necessary – otherwise teachers go back to 'traditional' methods



WHAT METHODS ARE MOST
SUCCESSFUL?

SUCCESSFUL METHODOLOGY

- When designing a course I recommend the Quality Matters Rubric
 - It has a great outline for developing an online course
- Engagement is key!
- Lessons cannot be reading, post to discussion board – you don't like it, neither will they
 - They also cannot be a 'traditional' lesson put online
- Connect them to the outside world
- Short videos
- 'Chunked' assignments
- Group work



NOW WHAT?

POSSIBLE ISSUES

- Students have difficulty managing time
 - Online schools are not for every student
 - Students must have a high level of organizational ability
- Student disconnect from other students and teachers
 - Students report feelings of isolation
- Teacher disconnect from students and other teachers
 - Teachers have difficulty not being able to see their students
 - They have issues of not being able to pick up on visual cues of students therefore missing opportunities to help
- Unreliable technology

A FEW OTHER ISSUES

- Cyber truancy
- Cheating is prevalent and virtual schools are especially susceptible:
 1. Getting someone else to do the assignment
 2. Collaborating with someone else on an assignment
 3. Downloading and saving the quiz in the first attempt, completing the quiz with the help of resources either from books or other people,

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- It is a fast growing market so schools have to be careful what platform/program they choose to invest their money in
- Online schools are viable options to give students more choice in their academic careers
- Teachers must be given specific training to manage online courses, not just thrown in
- If a district is going to use virtual schools, they must be 'all in' for the measure to be effect – half measures will lead to failure all invested groups



QUESTIONS?



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Feel free to contact me, I love to chat!

THANKS FOR COMING!