E.L. Haynes is exploring multiple models of blended learning across its pre-K through 10th grade campuses. At the high school, we have a 1:1 ratio of laptops to students. This allows teachers to be able to assign online program-based homework, facilitate data-driven discussions utilizing the student-facing portal in SchoolForce, our student information management system, and begin to experiment with flipped classroom concepts.

Literacy is our primary focus this year at E.L. Haynes. Aligned with this priority, we implemented a Tier 2 reading intervention called Lexia Reading, a blended learning program that builds foundational literacy skills for students across all grade levels. We have deployed a combination of lab-rotation and station-rotation models for struggling readers in grades 4–9 using this program. Typically, students go to a Lexia Lab, but within the lab, there may be different stations they are assigned to for that day or week. Our goal is to have students on the online component of the program for 70–90 minutes per week depending on their prescribed dosage and specific skill deficits. For grades 6–8, targeted sets of students are pulled out within their Lexia Lab time for small group instruction by our reading interventionist, Capital Teaching Residents, or other supporting classroom teachers. Additionally, some students are provided with time to read independently or are tasked with completing Lexia-recommended worksheets if a particular skill requires reinforcement.

We also use a blended learning, Common Core-aligned mathematics program called Conceptua Math to help build students’ and teachers’ conceptual understandings of fractions. The recommended “Big Ideas,” Topics, and Lessons were integrated into our scope and sequence in grades 3–6 unit plans. Brief lesson openers were conducted as part of whole class instruction utilizing interactive whiteboards. Afterwards, students completed the associated lesson individually in smaller, rotating groups based on the number of computers available.

Most of our other blended learning programs also use the station-rotation model and the recommended dosage varies by program. Almost all elementary and middle school classrooms have eight Netbooks in a cart. Programs such as Imagine Learning English (pK–3), DreamBox (K-5), FASTT Math (2-8), Footsteps to Brilliance (K), and Read Naturally (middle school resource room) are used as a supplement to daily instruction. We have high hopes for the potential of blended learning to personalize instruction, fill gaps in standards mastery, and increase flexibility for students and teachers.