

# THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM

A reversed teaching model that delivers instruction at home through interactive, teacher-created videos and moves “homework” to the classroom.



## Flipping Your School or District

By flipping an entire school, Clintondale high school principal Greg Green [took a big risk](#)...and his students reaped a big reward.

But flipping at scale doesn't happen overnight. Here's a roadmap for how you can get started and build on successes along the way.

### Pilot

Think of two of your teachers who like to try new things. If they happen to teach the same subject—great!—they can team up to create content and in-class activities. If your district has technology and curriculum specialists, ask them to provide support, too.

Set up the pilot with measurement in mind. To get the best apples-to-apples comparison between a control and experimental group:

- Flip half of your sections but leave the other half unchanged
- Use the same measurements between sections and semesters

Decide which metrics you hope to improve and how you'll measure them over time. Some ideas:

- Scores: quiz, test, course
- Homework completion rates
- Demonstration of mastery
- Student attitudes/satisfaction
- Disciplinary incidents



*“Kids struggle...because some of them are really good at playing school. They like to be spoon-fed the information...And when they really have to demonstrate that they understand, at first they struggle with that. But after a while they get used to it.”*

-Dan Spencer, Educational Technology Consultant, Jackson County ISD  
([read more](#))

### What Technology Do You Need to get Started?

Not much. You can start with free, easy-to-use tools for creating and delivering content, and measuring its impact. Tools like Jing, a blog, and Google Docs.

[Detailed instructions >>](#)

### How Much Time Should You Give the Pilot?

Flipping just one unit within a course has some value...but flipping a course for an entire semester is a better test of the approach.

Why? For one thing, it takes time for a flipped classroom to hit its stride. Teachers learn a lot during the first few attempts—about technology and information design. And students may dislike the approach at first, as it requires them to work harder and take more ownership over their own learning.

## How Should You Document What You're Doing?

It's best to document along the way, as you work out kinks in the process. Teachers can use the same toolset for documenting that they're using to create flipped classroom content! (Tip: to document use of a screen capture app like Jing, you'll need a second screen capture app like Snagit.)

Flipping a class can be overwhelming, so if teachers struggle to find time to document, ask another teacher (or even an upper level student) to serve as a "journalist" by interviewing the teacher for 30 minutes every month and capturing what they've learned in a digestible format, e.g., point-and-shoot camera video with written notes.

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## Evaluate & Iterate

You'll be doing informal evaluation and iteration throughout the pilot. Producing content for each lesson or unit will reveal some things that work well and some things that can be improved on right away. But you'll also want to schedule time for a mid-term and post-semester retrospective to compare notes and do some deeper analysis.

If your analysis of the data shows weak results from the initial pilot, consider piloting in a different subject or with different teachers. If it was a success and you decide to do flipped instruction at scale, it's time to get the right people, processes, and platforms into place.



### Can students watch videos at home?

Greg Green surveyed the student body and found that 82% could access videos outside of school. Computer labs are also available before and after school.

[\(more Q&A with Greg\)](#)

## Scale Up

### Inviting Adoption

Hold a series of lunch-and-learn sessions to let faculty ask questions of your pilot teachers, eliminate mystique and [myths](#) around the flipped classroom, and brainstorm possibilities together.

Provide opportunities for teachers to witness a flipped classroom firsthand. This could be at your own school or another school in your area. Find local flipped classrooms via "[World Flipped Class Open House](#)" events or the [Flipped Class community member map](#).

Equip teachers to dip a toe in the water by giving them a step-by-step guide for flipping a single lesson or a favorite unit. It's an attractive way to prepare materials for a substitute teacher or carve out time for that really cool in-class activity.

[Use our guide or build on it to create your own >>](#)

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## Providing Training

Ask your pilot program teachers and outside experts to share the knowledge they've gained through experience. But instead of yawn-inducing "sit and get" professional development classes, try [flipping your PD!](#) Have attendees watch a video or two in advance, then come to the PD class ready to dive in and do. This models the flipped approach, lets teachers experience the flipped classroom as a learner, and gives pilot teachers a chance to coach rather than lecture.

For an intensive, multi-day experience, send teachers to the [Flipped Conference](#).

To keep ideas flowing and find ways around roadblocks, encourage teachers to expand their PLN by joining conversations on the [#flipclass](#) Twitter hashtag, [Flipped Class community site](#), or [blogs](#).

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## Creating Content

Flipping an entire course requires the creation and curation of a lot of content. You may be able to get grant money that would enable teachers to dedicate a few days or weeks, at the outset, to pre-recording content.

Be strategic about producing content. Instead of having three teachers record the same set of algebra lessons, divvy up the curriculum and share content between teachers whenever possible. Ask students how much it matters to them whether content is delivered by “their own” teacher.

*“If a math teacher at our school also happens to be a Civil War buff in his or her spare time, why not have that teacher create a video lecture on the Civil War?”*

–Greg Green, principal, Clintondale High School

## Achieving Efficiency

An enterprise-wide content creation platform can add a lot of efficiency as you scale up. TechSmith’s [Camtasia Relay](#), for example, automates multimedia content production and delivery—eliminating the need to train teachers on how to save videos in the correct format, name files consistently, and upload to a specific directory. It can automatically convert speech to text and apply captioning. And its optional integration with Screencast.com solves the problem of where to store all this shiny, new video content.

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## Making the Most of Class Time

If much of the direct instruction is removed from a classroom...what to do with class time? This is where huge opportunity opens up for teachers and students alike. The teacher can finally serve as a guide on the side, [helping students engage](#) in discussion, challenge, inquiry, and mastery.

But be ready to help teachers grow into this [new role](#)...it may turn out that what happens after the flip is more demanding than the flip itself!

*“Students are helping each other learn instead of relying on the teacher as the sole disseminator of knowledge. It truly is magical to observe.”*

–Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams, Flipped Class Pioneers