We have five Opportunity Culture Principles for these school models, whether they are used for whole schools or single courses.

**Teams of teachers and school leaders must choose and tailor models to:**

1. Reach more students with excellent teachers and their teams
2. Pay teachers more for extending their reach
3. Fund pay within regular budgets
4. Provide protected in-school time and clarity about how to use it for planning, collaboration, and development
5. Match authority and accountability to each person’s responsibilities

The models are organized around two key dimensions:

1. **Where is the teacher?** Teachers can work in person, teaching in a school and/or leading other teachers. Or they may be remotely located, with on-site monitors’ help.
2. **How is the teacher’s reach extended to more students?**
   
   **Through:**
   
   • **Multi-Classroom Leadership**, by leading other teachers, and co-teaching with them, with authority to select, assign roles, develop, and evaluate the team;
   
   • **Specialization** in the most crucial subjects and most difficult teaching roles;
   
   • **Class-Size Changes**, with larger classes (within reason, by choice);
   
   • **Time-Technology Swaps** that have students use digital instruction for some of their learning time—enough time that excellent teachers can teach more students;
   
   • **Combination** models to make the best use of excellent teachers’ time.

Changing schools this way sets up a *virtuous cycle* of selectivity, career advancement and on-the-job learning opportunities for teachers, and higher pay, leading to financially sustainable excellence for schools and excellent outcomes for students.

**OPPORTUNITY CULTURE PRINCIPLES**

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### Model Overview Table: How Do Excellent Teachers Reach More Students?

**Where is the Excellent Teacher?**

**In-Person**
*The teacher accountable for learning is in the school, teaching face to face, and may lead peers.*

**Remotely Located**
*In schools with shortages, the teacher accountable for learning uses technology to teach and connect with students, and may lead peers. An in-person monitor is required.*

#### Multi-Classroom Leadership

- **Excellent teacher leads a teaching team and is accountable for all students.**

#### Specialization

- **Excellent teachers specialize in high-priority subjects & roles, with new paraprofessional support.**

#### Class-Size Changes (in combination with models that reduce group size)

- **Excellent teachers teach larger classes, within limits and by choice, usually without increasing instructional group size.**

#### Time Swaps

- **Digital instruction or offline skill practice and projects save teachers time to teach more students and collaborate. Students spend an hour (elementary) or more (secondary) daily in paraprofessional-supervised learning.**

#### Combinations

Schools committed to reaching every student with excellent teaching will use combinations, and based on early experience and data, we recommend using direct-reach models (such as Time Swaps and Subject Specialization) in combination with Multi-Classroom Leadership at the elementary and secondary levels. These combinations are often optimal for collaboration, student reach, and higher teacher pay. Multi-Combinations of varying kinds are possible. For more school-based and alternative models that personalize learning while setting high standards for learning, see School Model Summaries.

Note: Shaded items may require new technology. Students are in school buildings in all models in this table.

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### When Learning is Outside the School:

**Community-Based Organizations and Home**

In the table above, all of the models assume that students are physically located in schools. But in other cases, students may be located elsewhere. Community-based organizations may host dropout recovery and other programs. And more students every year are learning at home. These students need excellent teachers in charge of their learning, too. So, on pages 8 and 9 we also include brief descriptions of four models for combining excellent remote teachers, digital instruction, and parents or community organization staff members as monitors.

### Model Descriptions

We have included with most model descriptions an estimate of the additional percentage of students that excellent teachers may reach within our five principles, expressed as a “Reach Effect.” For example, if a calculus teacher reaches double the number of students by having students learn online during class time every other day while she works with another group of students on personalized and enriched learning, the Reach Effect is 100%. If an elementary teacher agrees to take 30 students in a class, rather than the U.S. average of 24, then the Reach Effect is 25%, or \((30 - 24) ÷ 24\).

Estimates of how many more students can be reached effectively are based on analysis of teacher time data from the National Center for Education Statistics, consideration of planning time required, feasible student loads, and class sizes in educationally high-performing nations.

These estimates are to provide ranges, and they do not apply equally to all teachers or schools. School design teams will need to make choices about the group, class, and total student load sizes to fit the teachers and students involved.
MULTI-CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP

School-based or remotely located instructional teams report to excellent teachers with leadership skills. The teacher-leaders are fully accountable for multiple classrooms, and they both teach and lead other team members, who use the leader’s methods and tools in varying roles the leader assigns.

IN-PERSON MODELS:

* Multi-Classroom Leadership. Excellent teachers with leadership competencies lead teams of other teachers to meet the leaders’ standards of excellence. Teachers, including the teacher-leader, play instructional roles assigned by the leader and use the leader’s methods and tools. The teacher-leader chooses, evaluates, and develops team members, establishing each person’s roles and goals at least annually. The leader facilitates team collaboration and planning. The leader is accountable for team success and all students’ learning. Reach Effect: up to approximately 400% more students reached with excellent teachers in charge.

REMOTE MODELS:

* Multi-Teacher Leadership (Remote). Excellent teachers with leadership competencies lead teams of other teachers to meet the leaders’ standards of excellence. Team members may be co-located or remote. In-person and remote teachers (using webcams or similar tools), including the teacher-leader, play instructional roles assigned by the leader and use the leader’s methods and tools. The teacher-leader chooses, evaluates, and develops team members, establishing each person’s roles and goals at least annually. The leader facilitates team collaboration and planning. A remote teacher-leader may direct multiple teams at different sites. The leader earns more than the others—funded by the reduction of non-classroom specialists, lower pay for others with narrower instructional roles and fewer work hours, and in some cases a reduction of team size. The leader is accountable for team success and all students’ learning. Reach Effect: up to approximately 400% more students reached with excellent teachers in charge.

SPECIALIZATION

Excellent teachers specialize in high-priority subjects and the most crucial, challenging roles, focusing on the subjects and instructional roles in which each excels.

IN-PERSON MODELS:

* Subject Specialization (Elementary). The best teachers teach one or two priority subjects, leaving other subjects and many noninstructional tasks to teammates. A likely combination would be subject pairs: 1) math/science and 2) language arts/social studies. A third set of adults—learning coaches, teaching assistants, or other designated adults—supervise students during homeroom, other unstructured time, and transitions, and they cover most administrative work and other noninstructional tasks. All collaborate as a team to ensure student learning and development. For example, elementary teachers now spend about 8 of their nearly 32 instructional hours weekly on math and science combined. An excellent teacher could teach three times the current student load and retain up to 8 school-day planning hours weekly. A second set of teachers could teach language arts and social studies, on which teachers now spend about 14 hours weekly, retaining up to 4 planning hours weekly. Higher pay for excellent teachers can be funded by lower pay for the learning coaches/assistants and the elimination of some non-classroom instructional specialist positions. Reach Effect: approximately 100%–300% more students reached with excellent teachers. Note: Subjects for specialization will vary based on school priorities and available teachers; the math/science and language arts/social studies pairs are just one example.
Remote Role Specialization. Remote role specialization can take several forms. The goal is to focus excellent teachers’ time on the instructional roles that are most challenging and critical for student success, and on high-value noninstructional work related to student outcomes. In addition, focusing excellent teachers’ time on the instructional roles in which each excels may magnify their effectiveness. All of these role changes require that other staff members or technological tools perform the instructional and noninstructional roles that excellent teachers no longer play. If enough excellent teacher time is saved, then these teachers can teach more students. Role specialization is already incorporated into other reach models, including Multi-Classroom Leadership, Time-Technology Swaps, and Subject Specialization. In these models, different teacher and paraprofessional team members play differing roles—not just teaching different subjects—to produce the best outcomes for the most students. Reach Effects: will vary widely. Examples include:

- Excellent teachers use their time exclusively for academic instruction and planning. This is enabled by having other team members cover noninstructional duties that do not affect student learning, and by using time-saving technology.
- Excellent teachers focus on the most critical, challenging instructional roles in which each excels. Other team members perform remaining instructional duties. Instructional roles include (among others): planning instruction, lecturing, motivating, monitoring student progress, reviewing student work, providing feedback, diagnosing next-step student needs, monitoring students’ independent work, leading individual and small-group instruction, grading, providing instructional/administrative work, addressing social/emotional/behavioral learning barriers, and communicating with parents.

REMOTE MODELS:

- Remote Subject Specialization. Remotely located excellent teachers teach priority subjects, leaving other subjects and many noninstructional tasks to other teachers and staff. On-site monitors selected for their classroom management and social/emotional development skills manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties; they may provide academic support, and they provide vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns to the remote teachers.
- Elementary. A likely approach would be having the best remote teachers teach one of two core subject pairs: math/science or language arts/social studies. For example, excellent remote math teachers relieved of on-site duties could teach four times the current student load within standard work hours, using all noninstructional time for the planning and follow-up that are essential to instruction.
- Secondary. Excellent single-course remote teachers may teach students in multiple locations, using a combination of synchronous instruction (e.g., using webcams, online whiteboards) and asynchronous, personalized communications (e.g., email for feedback on student work, answering students’ questions).

Higher pay for the excellent remote teachers is funded by lower pay for the on-site paraprofessional monitors and the elimination of some non-classroom instructional specialist positions in subjects taught by the excellent remote teachers. Reach Effect: approximately 100%–400% more students reached with excellent teachers. Note: Subjects for specialization will vary based on school priorities and available teachers; the math/science and language arts/social studies pairs are just one example.

Remote Role Specialization. Remote role specialization is the same as in-person, except that the excellent remote teachers collaborate with in-person staff (or other remote instructors). An in-person adult is responsible for all activities unrelated to instruction and for monitoring student time and behavior.

Role specialization can take several forms, and the goal is to focus excellent teachers’ time on the instructional roles that are most challenging and critical for success, and on high-value noninstructional work related to student outcomes. In addition, focusing excellent teachers’ time on the instructional roles in which each excels may magnify their effectiveness. All of these role changes require that other staff members or technological tools perform the instructional and noninstructional roles that excellent teachers no longer play. If enough excellent teacher time is saved, then these teachers can teach more students. Role specialization is already incorporated into other reach models (with both in-person and remotely located teachers), including Multi-Classroom Leadership, Time-Technology Swaps, and Subject Specialization. In these models, different teacher and paraprofessional team members play differing roles—not just teaching different subjects—to produce the best outcomes for the most students. Reach Effects: will vary widely. Examples include:

- Excellent teachers use their time exclusively for academic instruction and planning. This is enabled by having other team members cover noninstructional duties that do not affect student learning, and by using time-saving technology.
- Excellent teachers focus on the most critical, challenging instructional roles in which each excels. Other team mem-
bers perform remaining instructional duties. Instructional roles include (among others): planning instruction, lecturing, motivating, monitoring student progress, reviewing student work, providing feedback, diagnosing next-step student needs, monitoring students’ independent work, leading individual and small-group instruction, grading, providing instructional administrative work, addressing social/emotional/behavioral learning barriers, and communicating with parents.

CLASS-SIZE CHANGES

Excellent teachers choose to teach larger classes, within limits appropriate for each teacher, the students, and each school.

Educationally high-performing nations’ class sizes vary from averages of about 19 to 35 students. OECD-reporting nations with graduation rates over 90% have average class sizes of 27 students. Current U.S. classrooms average 24 students. In these models, we limit class sizes to 35. Many schools would choose different limits, depending on the teachers and students involved. Note: Few pilot Opportunity Culture schools have chosen to use this model alone. Although it requires the least change in school processes, it maintains the one-teacher-one-classroom mode, and does not create a natural team of teachers who can help one another succeed. By combining technical class-size increases (increased student: teacher ratios) with Time-Technology Swaps or Elementary Specialization, teachers can reach more students while maintaining or decreasing the number of students in a class with a teacher at any given time.

Remote models:

* Remote Class-Size Increases. In schools without enough excellent teachers working in person, excellent remote teachers teach students in larger-than-usual group sizes (staying within reasonable class-size limits), and schools pay these excellent teachers more. Students may be co-located (e.g., interacting as a group with a live teacher on large screen with two-way cameras) or not (e.g., interacting from multiple schools with a live teacher using webcams or online whiteboards). In-person monitors are required. Reach Effect: approximately 10%–40% more students reached with excellent teachers.

* Remote Class-Size Shifting. In schools without enough excellent teachers working in person, students shift from other teachers’ classrooms into classes of willing excellent teachers who are teaching remotely (staying within reasonable class-size limits), and schools pay these excellent teachers more. Other teachers, whether teaching on site or remotely, have proportionally smaller classes and, as new people enter under new employment arrangements, lower pay. This model can be used to induct newer in-person or remote teachers with smaller classes, or simply to maximize the number of students benefitting from available, excellent remote teachers. In-person monitors are required. Reach Effect: approximately 10%–40% more students reached with excellent teachers.

REMOTE MODELS:

* Remote Class-Size Increases. In schools without enough excellent teachers working in person, excellent remote teachers teach students in larger-than-usual group sizes (staying within reasonable class-size limits), and schools pay these excellent teachers more. Students may be co-located (e.g., interacting as a group with a live teacher on large screen with two-way cameras) or not (e.g., interacting from multiple schools with a live teacher using webcams or online whiteboards). In-person monitors are required. Reach Effect: approximately 10%–40% more students reached with excellent teachers.

* Remote Class-Size Shifting. In schools without enough excellent teachers working in person, students shift from other teachers’ classrooms into classes of willing excellent teachers who are teaching remotely (staying within reasonable class-size limits), and schools pay these excellent teachers more. Other teachers, whether teaching on site or remotely, have proportionally smaller classes and, as new people enter under new employment arrangements, lower pay. This model can be used to induct newer in-person or remote teachers with smaller classes, or simply to maximize the number of students benefitting from available, excellent remote teachers. In-person monitors are required. Reach Effect: approximately 10%–40% more students reached with excellent teachers.

A Teacher’s Impact = Student Outcomes x Number of Students Reached
TIME-TECHNOLOGY SWAPS

Digital instruction replaces enough excellent in-person or remotely located teacher time that these teachers can teach more students. Students are likely to use digital instruction for 25% or more of learning time. The swap may be on a fixed schedule (Rotation) or a flexible one (Flex) determined by students’ changing needs:

- **Rotation**: Alternating digital and live-teacher learning time (with teacher in-person or remote) on a fixed schedule. Digital learning time is likely to be 25%–50% of in-school learning time.
- **Flex**: Digital, small-group, and large-group learning time individualized for each student and frequently changing. Digital learning time may be 50% or more of in-school learning time.

REMOTE TIME-TECHNOLOGY SWAPS:

- **Remote Rotation**: When not enough excellent teachers are available in person for a school or specific subjects, excellent, remotely located teachers interact directly with students, though not in person, and are fully responsible for student learning in designated subjects. Students alternate between learning with the remotely located teachers and digital learning on a prescribed schedule. Students spend about 25%–50% of their instructional time learning through personalized digital instruction, enabling fewer, more-effective remote teachers to reach a greater number of students with personalized and enriched portions of their instruction. Excellent teachers design their live lessons based on student needs determined in part by using data generated from digital assessments. Remote teachers may teach students located down the hall or across the na-
On-site monitors manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties; they may provide academic support, and they provide vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns to the remote teachers. Schools can use these models for single courses, subjects, grades, or whole schools. Specific uses may differ in elementary and secondary schools. Reach Effect: approximately 33%–500% more students per excellent teacher, and teachers can teach students in any location.

Remote Flex: When not enough excellent teachers are available in person for a school or specific subjects, excellent, remotely located teachers interact directly with students, though not in person, and are fully responsible for student learning in designated subjects. Students alternate between learning with the remotely located teachers and digital learning on a varying schedule according to the needs of each student, who may be in one school or various schools. Most students spend 50% or more of their instructional time learning through personalized digital instruction, enabling fewer, more-effective remote teachers to reach a greater number of students with personalized and enriched portions of their instruction. Teachers also vary student groupings for teacher-led instruction—such as seminars, whole-group, small-group, or individual instruction, and project facilitation—based on individual student needs determined in part by using data generated from digital assessments. Remotely located teachers are accountable for learning outcomes in designated subjects. Remote teachers are assisted by on-site monitors who manage student time and behavior and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties; they may provide academic support, and they provide vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns to the remote teachers. Reach Effect: approximately 50%–200% increase, if digital learning time is limited to two-thirds of student time.

Likely combinations include:

- Any of the models combined with Homework Flipping
- Any other models combined with Specialization or Multi-Class Leadership
- Schools committed to reaching every student in every valued subject with excellent teachers will use Multi-Combinations

Examples:

Flipping + Time-Technology Swaps. Excellent teachers assign digital instruction on basic knowledge and skills as homework. At school, students spend 25% or more of their day on digital instruction, projects, and tutoring with paraprofessionals. As a result, the time excellent teachers spend with students can be focused largely on personalized, enriched in-person instruction on a fixed, rotating schedule (Rotation) or frequently changing, flexible groupings (Flex). Reach Effects: approximately 33%–200% more students reached by excellent in-person teachers (up to 400% more, with subject specialization). Note: Flipping models today are not necessarily used to help already-excellent teachers reach more students, as described here.
**Specialization + Time-Technology Swaps.** Combining Subject Specialization with Rotation or Flex models, excellent teachers focusing on subject specialties (math/science; language arts/social studies) teach students on a fixed, rotating schedule (Rotation) or frequently changing, flexible groupings (Flex). Students spend 25% or more of in-school time engaged in a combination of digital learning, project-based learning, and tutoring with paraprofessionals. Reach Effects: approximately 100%–400% more students reached by excellent teachers.

**Remote Specialization + Time-Technology Swaps.** Excellent remote teachers focusing on subject specialties (math/science; language arts/social studies) teach students on a fixed, rotating schedule (Rotation) or frequently changing, flexible groupings (Flex). The teachers teach live, using large-screen video, computer screen webcams, or online whiteboards, and may have personalized follow-up with students via email or other means. Students may be in one school location or many. Students also spend 25% or more of their in-school time engaged in a combination of digital learning, project-based learning, and tutoring with on-site paraprofessionals. On-site staff members also manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties. They also provide vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns to the remote teachers. Reach Effects: Combining remote specialization with time-technology swaps lets excellent teachers reach approximately 100%–500% more students.

**Multi-Classroom Leadership ("Pods") + Time-Technology Swaps.** Using either a Rotation or Flex model, one excellent teacher-leader who has leadership competencies leads a team of multiple classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. Digital instruction (supervised by a monitor) replaces a portion of in-person teachers’ instructional time, such as whole-group instruction and lectures, to enable fewer, more effective in-person teachers to reach a greater number of students with the personalized and enriched portions of their instruction. This model enables paying the teacher-leader more, and/or saving more money, and/or reserving more time for collaborative planning or extended learning time than a multi-class leadership model alone, because the wages of digital lab monitors are less than that of most other instructional staff. Reach Effect: Up to approximately 400% more students reached per excellent teacher.

**Remote Flipping + Time-Technology Swaps.** Remote excellent teachers assign digital instruction on basic knowledge and skills as homework. At school, students spend 25% or more of their day on digital instruction, projects, and tutoring with paraprofessionals. As a result, the time remote excellent teachers spend with students can be focused largely on personalized, enriched instruction on a fixed, rotating schedule (Rotation) or frequently changing, flexible groupings (Flex). The teachers teach live, using large-screen video, computer screen webcams, or online whiteboards, and may have personalized follow-up with students via email or other means. On-site paraprofessionals monitor remote and digital instruction. They manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties. They also provide vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns to the remote teachers. Reach Effects: approximately 33%–300% more students reached by excellent teachers remotely (up to 500% more, with subject specialization). Note: Flipping models today are not necessarily used to help already-excellent teachers reach more students, as described here.

**Multi-Combination Example:** Excellent teachers with leadership competencies lead teams of subject and role specialists, replace a portion of teaching time with digital instruction, and provide excellent remote teachers in subjects for which an excellent in-person teacher is unavailable, while also using time-saving technology tools for grouping students, grading, and the like. Reach Effect: Potentially coverage of all students by excellent teachers in all chosen subjects—approximately a 400% increase in reach, or more in some grade levels and subjects.

**COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO)-MONITORED AND PARENT-MONITORED**

**CBO-MONITORED**

Students spend the school day at the facility of a community-based organization, receiving instruction from remote, excellent teachers.

**CBO-Monitored Remote.** Students receive instruction from excellent remote teachers on a schedule determined and monitored by staff at a community-based organization. Remote teachers teach at scheduled times, using webcams, online whiteboards, or similar technology. They may teach students in one or multiple locations simultaneously, and they may assign, review, and discuss work with individuals or groups of students, synchronously or asynchronously (e.g., via email). The remote teachers are the adults accountable for learning outcomes in each subject they teach. On-site CBO monitors manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all...
Students receive instruction from excellent remote teachers on a schedule determined and monitored by staff at a community-based organization. The remote teachers teach at scheduled times, using webcams, online whiteboards, or similar technology. They may teach students in one or multiple locations simultaneously, and they may assign, review, and discuss work with individuals or groups of students, synchronously or asynchronously (e.g., via email). In addition, digital instruction replaces a substantial portion (at least 25%) of instructional time, such as basic knowledge and skill instruction, enabling fewer, better remote teachers to reach more students with personalized and enriched portions of their instruction. The remote teachers are the adults accountable for learning outcomes in each subject they teach. On-site CBO monitors manage student time and behavior, supervise recess and lunch, and perform all in-person supervisory and administrative duties; they may provide academic support, and they share vital information about students’ social, emotional, and behavioral concerns with the accountable, remote teachers. Informal educators who are nonetheless experts may provide instruction in some subjects best taught on-site, such as art and music. Reach Effect: 33%–500% more students per excellent teacher; teachers can teach students in any location, while students may spend their days in environments suitable to their individual needs.

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