Blended Learning for Students with Learning Disabilities

Prior to starting the ADL program, I did not know what to expect or the outcome that I would have. I was first working as a paraprofessional in Klein ISD so I always knew that I wanted to focus on special education students, now two years later I am a special education teacher in Aldine ISD and I have learned even more by testing and making lesson plans to fit all my student's needs. Two years ago, I had never heard of a blended learning classroom. I have heard of a flipped classroom where students primarily learn at home and only come to school to take assessments and/ or ask questions. These past two years in the ADL program I have taken several classes that have allowed me to research the benefits of technology for students with learning disabilities and how inclusive classrooms can benefit their learning and social skills. I have chosen to focus on how blended learning can benefit students with learning disabilities and how creating ePortfolio's allows them to expand their minds and connect with different peers in the community. Blended learning allows students to control their learning, makes it more convenient for their learning, and allows for easy scaling. Going through these courses and updating my innovation proposal has made me realize that influencing change is very important in the learning community, especially for students with learning disabilities, however not easy. I first piloted these ideas to a few general and special education teachers and now I am proud to say that I now pilot them during professional development to staff from different schools.

SpEd students should be able to have the same opportunity to communicate with other students outside of their own classroom and by utilizing technology for their learning. Students will begin a six-week course starting with the history and benefits of an ePortfolio. Overall ending the course by making their own ePortfolio and knowing how to navigate and communicate with peers through blog posts on each other's ePortfolio. By implementing these

courses, students will be able to work on their ePortfolio in and outside of school and go through courses that allow them to expand their knowledge through Wix.com. I am excited to continue to update the progress that my students make while going through the six-week course and making the proper changes to that I can expand this course to other Special educators.