



Infrastructure and Student-Centered Learning

The breadth and depth of a personalized learning program is ultimately dependent on its vision, infrastructure, and capacity for sustainability. And the level of personalization of your learning program will ultimately be determined by your school's technology capacity.

In a 1:1 scenario, every child can have a personalized learning plan. This can play out simply, with teachers utilizing Google Apps for Education to store individualized assignments, or through adaptive software or digital platforms. If there aren't enough devices for every student, use the devices available for small group instruction or rotate students through a device station to work on individualized assignments and assessments.

Students and teachers need to know what is expected of them in a lab rotation or 1:1 classroom. Expectations may include student achievement growth, an increase in student independence, or noticeably higher engagement and critical thinking activities.

In a computer lab scenario, classes are rotated regularly to the lab for instruction, with each child working on individualized assignments and assessments. Tools could include Khan Academy or license-based adaptive programs such as PLATO.

Before embarking on a personalized learning initiative, start with a pilot of only a few classrooms, with teachers who have the capacity and enthusiasm for technology and differentiation. Older students make the transition to personalized learning more quickly than early elementary children. This pilot will test the limits of your infrastructure. Overall, a personalized program for your school or district must also be carefully personalized to your unique challenges and realities.

It's important that your personalized learning program grows at the rate your infrastructure can handle. If your infrastructure only supports one computer lab, consider planning to increase the amount of devices. Schools already at 1:1 may choose to focus on enhancing their software or platforms.