

## **Classroom/Distance Learning Cooperation**

One of the most important, if not the most important thing to do when setting up a Distance Learning ESL program, or any DL program for that matter, is to assure that you have the support of the traditional classroom teachers in that area of study. There are many ways to do this, but all lead to the same place; reassuring these aforementioned colleagues that it is absolutely NOT the intention of the DL program to “steal” students presently enrolled in their classes. Distance Learning must be presented as a supplemental program to traditional classes, or as an alternative for those unable to attend for whatever reason on a more full-time basis. Statistically, it has been proven that students enrolled in DL as well as traditional classes have better retention and attendance in traditional courses, and as would be expected due to the additional learning opportunity presented also score higher on their benchmarks. If the program is presented as a companion rather than a competitor to traditional classes, and respect is demonstrated regarding the presentation of the program to the traditional classroom, as well as acknowledging the inconvenience to the classroom teacher, no matter how slight, of pulling the students out for the weekly 20 minute session, the DL program, the traditional classes, and most importantly the students will see the value of Distance Learning and wholeheartedly support it.

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