

ACARA D-PRIZE CHALLENGE

2015-2016 Academic Year

Flip The Classroom In Resource-Limited Settings

New education models, like flipping the classroom or deskillling a class curriculum, offer a solution to the vast teacher shortages in the developing world. Deliver an already-proven curriculum to 250 students in three months, with a vision to help 50,000 students in two years.

The Problem: Learning is impossible without adequate classroom resources, particularly when the resource is a teacher. One third of countries in sub-Saharan Africa are already suffering from teacher shortages.¹ The problem will only get worse. By 2030, 2.1 million new teaching positions will need to be filled across Africa, and another 2.6 million will need to be filled as older teachers retire.²

Exacerbating this is teacher absenteeism. Up to 25 percent of teachers in the developing world will be absent from work on any given day.³

The Proven Solution: Fortunately, new education innovations are proving that learning does not necessarily demand a trained teacher. Organizations like Khan Academy are proving that a “flipped classroom” model can deliver quality education.⁴ In this model, students learn lessons at home, and classroom time is spent doing activity-style homework assignments. A flipped classroom can be run by a trained facilitator, rather than an expert teacher. Recent studies have shown that flipping the classroom can result in a dramatic increase in student learning – at times nearly doubling test score.^{5,6}

Another proven solution is a de-skilled paper curriculum, which can be delivered to students via trained facilitators. An example of this model is Bridge International Academies’ “academy in a box”.⁷ The model has increased reading fluency by 205 percent, reading comprehension by 37 percent, and addition and subtraction by 24 and 37 percent.⁸

Your Challenge: We will award up to \$20,000 to a social entrepreneur with a vision for teaching 50,000 students (about 1,000 classrooms) over the next two years. A pilot program should launch a new organization and deliver an already-established and effective curriculum to at least 250 students in three months.

Additional Information:

¹ <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/world-teachers-day-2013.aspx>

² <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/world-teachers-day-2013.aspx>

³ http://www.academia.edu/2380578/Teacher_Absenteeism_and_Teacher_Accountability_USAID_Paper_

⁴ <https://www.khanacademy.org/about>

⁵ Flipping the Classroom. Cynthia Brame, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University. <http://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/flipping-the-classroom/>

⁶ Improved Learning in Large Enrollment Physics Classroom. https://info.maths.ed.ac.uk/assets/files/LandT/Deslauriers_Science_May2011.pdf

⁷ <http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/approach/model/>

⁸ <http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/results/academic/>

- Quality matters. A winning idea will include a strong focus on measuring impact on student performance, by comparing test scores to a control group, for example. Although flipped classrooms and de-skilled curriculums are generally a proven intervention, there is not yet consensus on what specific model delivers the greatest impact to students. For instance, some programs show flipped classrooms are not as effective for non-numerate subjects.⁹ Measuring impact is especially important in this challenge.¹⁰
- The need geographically is enormous. Khan Academy had worked with an estimated 50 schools, and their model has been used in over 20,000 classrooms in 126 countries.¹¹ Bridge International Academy has hundreds of schools across southern and western Kenya and plans to educate 10 million children across a dozen countries by 2025.¹²
- Past winners of this challenge include [RARE Education](#) (Kenya, Tanzania), and [vChalk](#) (India).

Ready To Apply?

Visit the Acara Challenge website to get started.

<http://acara.environment.umn.edu/acarachallenge/>

⁹ <http://www.economist.com/node/21529062>

¹⁰ Givewell offers a guide for thinking about monitoring and evaluation in the education sector here:
<http://www.givewell.org/international/education>

¹¹ <https://www.edsurge.com/khan-academy>

¹² <http://www.bridgeinternationalacademies.com/company/about/>