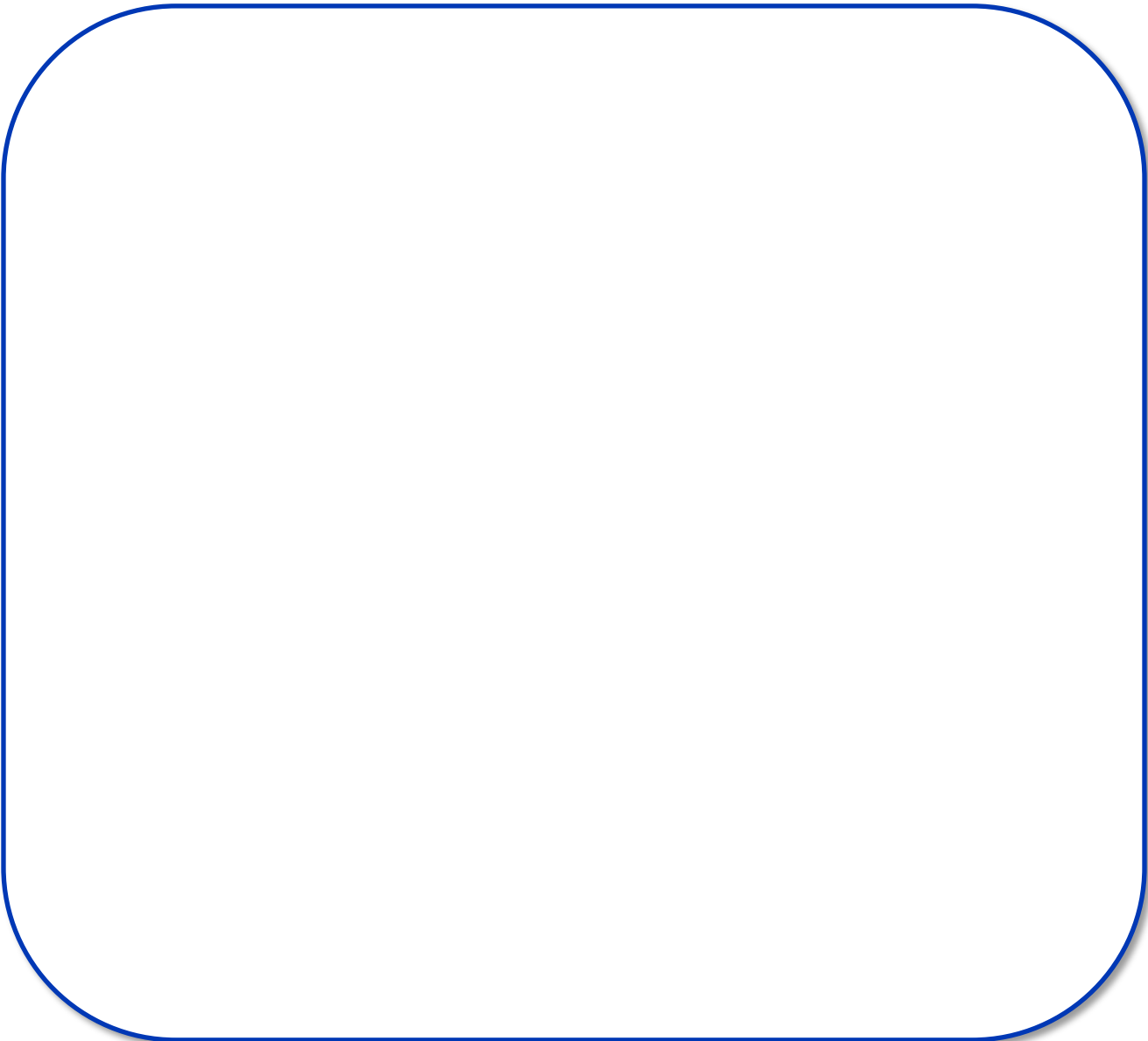# DESIGN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Envisioning your dream space

If you could design the perfect physical space for your blended-learning program, what would be its key features? How would you arrange the walls and furniture? What materials would you use, and how would you provide the ideal lighting?

Of course, money is the main barrier that prevents schools from making changes to align their physical space to the principles and goals of their blended initiatives. Taking the time to dream about the ideal is important, however, as a first step toward making at least part of the vision come true.

Use the space below to sketch out key elements of the ideal physical environment.

Hacking your existing space

Review the following case study about a teacher who worked within his existing physical space to align it with his blended-learning goals:

> In Mentor, Ohio, math teacher Tommy Dwyer removed desks to create a more open space. He covered the walls with Plexiglas boards on which students can do their work, which had the added effect of removing any sense of the front of the classroom. Students sit in groups around tables. Their chairs are on wheels so they can scoot themselves to the wall to use the Plexiglass boards as scrap paper.[1]

Using your SMART goal as your guide, list several ways that you could rearrange your existing space and furniture to facilitate you blended design. Evaluate the benefits and estimated costs of each idea.

Ideas for adjusting existing environment	Benefits	Estimated costs

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[1] Jason Lea, "Mentor Public Schools Experiment with Blended Learning Classroom," MentorPatch, May 7, 2013.