



Locating the latest research on K-12 online and blended learning

Online courses can offer additional opportunities for student learning, especially in rural areas where advanced course offerings are limited. However, the rapid pace of change in technology and online learning means that research for guiding the implementation of effective online programs can be difficult to find and can quickly become outdated. How can states and districts keep up with new and emerging research in virtual education? Here is a run-down of free resources, with suggestions for how practitioners and administrators can navigate them.

[The Handbook of Research on K-12 Online and Blended Learning](#),¹ last updated in 2018, is a collection of what is currently known about research in the field. Download the free digital version, then search for “Implications for Policy and Practice” to quickly find these sections, with recommendations most relevant to implementation.

[The Research Clearinghouse for K-12 Blended and Online Learning](#),² This database lets you search for relevant articles and download the references. Most journals also have free access to article abstracts.

[Online Learning Journal](#),³ This free, peer-reviewed journal covers online learning at all levels. Use the search term “K-12” plus any other relevant terms to find the best selection of articles for your needs. Recent articles include [Describing K-12 Online Teachers’ Online Professional Development Opportunities for Students with Disabilities](#),⁴ and [Job Satisfaction, Organizational Commitment, and Turnover Intention of Online Teachers in the K-12 Setting](#).⁵

[The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning](#),⁶ This peer-reviewed journal offers free access to its articles. Search “K-12” and filter by year (e.g., “Published after January 1, 2015”) to see relevant articles, or add terms related to your area of interest. Recent articles include: [Designing Authentic Learning Experiences to Train Preservice Teachers About Teaching Online](#),⁷ and [Hispanic or Latino Student Success in Online Schools](#).⁸

[Examining Research in Higher Education: What Can We Replicate in K-12](#),⁹ This 2018 article available for free from the Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute outlines key findings from research on online learning with adults that have implications for K-12 programs.

[National Standards for Quality \(Quality Matters and Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance\)](#),¹⁰ This site offers free literature reviews, published in 2018, of research related to quality online programs, teaching, and courses.

[The Quality Matters \(QM\) Research Library](#)¹¹ is a free, searchable online database containing references related to the eight general QM Standards:

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|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course overview and introduction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment and measurement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning activities and learner interaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learner support, and |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning objectives (competencies) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instructional materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course technology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility and usability |

[ERIC](#)¹² is an index of materials, many of which are free and peer-reviewed, that can help support the work of education policymakers.

1 https://kilthub.cmu.edu/articles/Handbook_of_Research_on_K-12_Online_and_Blended_Learning_Second_Edition_/6686813

2 <https://k12onlineresearch.org/>

3 <https://olj.onlinelearningconsortium.org/index.php/olj/search/search?simpleQuery=k-12&searchField=query>

4 <https://olj.onlinelearningconsortium.org/index.php/olj/article/view/1274>

5 <https://olj.onlinelearningconsortium.org/index.php/olj/article/view/986>

6 <http://www.irrod.org/index.php/irrod/search/search>

7 <http://www.irrod.org/index.php/irrod/article/view/3037>

8 <http://www.irrod.org/index.php/irrod/article/view/2257>

9 <https://mvlri.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/examining-online-research-in-higher-education.pdf>

10 <https://www.nsqol.org/resources/>

11 <https://www.qmprogram.org/qmresources/research/>

12 <https://eric.ed.gov>

Information in this infographic is supported by IES/NCEE’s Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast at Florida State University (Contract ED-IES-17-C-0011) as resources and examples for the viewer’s convenience. Their inclusion is not intended as an endorsement by the Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast or its funding source, the Institute of Education Sciences.

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