

Webinar: Shifting Classroom Practices to a Virtual Environment

Instructional strategies for all students in grades K-12

A Publication From Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest at IES

To access the RELs' evidence-based COVID-19 response resources, visit <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/covid-19>.



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Primary Audience: Teachers **Secondary Audiences:** Instructional Leaders and Principals

This Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest “quick chat” webinar, co-hosted with the Region 9 Comprehensive Center, highlighted strategies for effectively teaching K-12 students in a virtual setting. The webinar featured an e-learning expert who discussed research-based strategies to consider while transitioning classroom practices to an e-learning environment. Participants also heard from two K-12 educators who shared the approaches they are using to connect with students, build lesson plans, and manage student work in a virtual environment.



Evidence-Based Recommendations

- **Use universal design for learning principles** by providing multiple means of engagement.
- **Attend to the needs of all learners** by finding technology tools with built-in accessibility features.
- **Create a safe online environment for students** by teaching students how to be good consumers of online information and digital products.
- **Continue to build positive relationships with students** by publishing a daily message or creating online office hours.
- **Provide equitable learning opportunities** by creating instructional content that is accessible.



Questions to Consider

- How can we use our district's or school's current technology and resources to create lessons that allow students to express themselves in multiple ways?
- What makes a student a good digital citizen?
- How can we communicate to students and families the importance of protecting their private information online?
- How is our school or district providing instructional support to students without access to the internet?
- Does the school schedule allow for teachers to connect with students both online and offline? If not, how can we fix this?



Related Resources

- [Universal design for learning](#) is a framework used to create learning environments that are conducive for different types of learners.
- [PowerUp What Works](#) provides resources and tools to use the principles of universal design for learning and integrate technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- [Creating a Well-Rounded Educational Experience](#) is a free online learning module about social and emotional learning created by the American Institutes for Research.
- [What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guide: Using Technology to Support Postsecondary Student Learning](#) provides five recommendations for supporting learning through the effective use of technology.
- [Privacy Technical Assistance Center](#) provides resources for protecting student privacy.

The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences funds a network of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs). Each REL serves a designated region of the country and works in partnership with educators and policymakers with a mission of supporting a more evidence-based education system to improve outcomes for students. In response to the impact of COVID-19 on education systems, the RELs collaborated to produce evidence-based resources and guidance.

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