Webinar: Shifting Classroom Practices to a Virtual Environment

Instructional strategies for all students in grades K-12

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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.