

Supporting Students Through Coronavirus Pandemic & School Closures

A Guide & Collection of Resources

TEACHFORAMERICA

PURPOSE & DISCLAIMER

This document is created to support our communities and teachers to plan for how to support students during the coronavirus pandemic in advance of and throughout any prolonged school closures. It is maintained by Teach For America's National Teacher Leadership Development team, but as you will see, many of the resources are links to external resources created by external organizations or individuals. The resources linked within have not been fully vetted, and their inclusion is not meant as an endorsement from Teach For America. **(Staff:** If you have resources to add, please use the comment feature. You can also find the most recent PDF version [here](#).)

Collaboration space: To ensure our corps members and alums can collaborate, navigate challenges together, and share resources, Teach For America has set up a **temporary Slack community** for our network. Corps members and Alums can learn more and access that space using [this link](#).

Looking for free webinars or recorded trainings regarding online/virtual learning? Check out [this list](#) here.

Looking for resources related to a specific topic? Use “Ctrl+F” or “Command+F” to open a search bar to search the document. This document includes:

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QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Systems Considerations

- As school leaders revisit their emergency plans, [here](#) are 6 specific steps they should explore in order to promote instructional equity and preserve student well-being if schools close. From The Education Trust of New York

Social, Emotional, and Logistical Considerations

- How are you and your students responding emotionally to this time? Consider the tips shared at the end of this document.
 - Consider teaching some lessons about the virus, about public health measures, herd immunity, flattening the curve, and other topics to support their understanding of the what and why of the health concerns and responses.
 - Support students in their understanding of how to be media savvy and responsible media consumers during any prolonged school closures.
- Do you have updated, multiple forms of contact for your students? Phone numbers for your students and their parents, any emails, etc? How often do you plan to be in contact with your students and their families during a prolonged school closure? How will you check-in with students both as people and on as learners?
- How can you inform/prepare your students and their families for your plans for this transitional period? When will you share with them your plan? How will you do so?
- What directives/guidelines and resources does your school/district have in this transitional period? (Be sure to include these in your plan.)

Academic Considerations

- What does your district recommend? What are the school/district guidance being communicated?
- To what extent do students have access to the internet outside of school?
 - If you know students have access to internet/connected devices at home:
 - Ensure students know how to use virtual resources that you may leverage during a school closure (i.e. Khan Academy, Google Classroom, etc).
 - Connect any virtual learning platforms (Khan, Google, etc) to current units or learning objectives and set up virtual procedures for how students should complete and turn in lessons.
 - Determine how you'll give feedback to students and assess progress during the school closure.
 - Determine how you'll account for any students who lose access to internet/connected devices during the school closure.
 - If students don't have access to internet/connected devices at home or you are unsure:
 - Consider what printables/consumables you can send students home with.
 - Consider what lessons you want to lead before school closes regarding:

- How to continue learning on their own.
- About health/coronavirus/why this is happening.
- Consider how you want to stay in touch with students and families throughout the school closure to support ongoing learning.
- How have you approached preparing students for summer breaks and continuing their learning over extended break? What can you leverage from those approaches to support students in continuous learning during this school closure?
- How are you approaching preparing any administrative or case management tasks if you don't have physical access to the building - for example, upcoming IEP meetings, psychological testing, progress reports, etc? Does your district already have a process in place for how to either hold those virtually or how to postpone them?
 - [This resource](#) from the Council of Administrators of Special Education may be useful.
 - Additionally, see the "[Special Education](#)" section of this document.
- Can you loan books to your students? Can you lend out your classroom library? School library? Public library? What systems/procedures do you want to put in place before school closes to support students & families in such a large-scale lending of books?
- How can you inform/prepare your students and their families for your plans for this transitional period? When will you share your plan with them? How will you do so?
- What directives/guidelines and resources does your school/district have for this transitional period? (Be sure to include these in your plan)

TEACHING & TALKING ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

Here is a list of lessons, articles, or resources to support you in creating lessons about the coronavirus. You can use these with students either virtually during a school closure, or before a school closure to support students understand the topic.

Type of Resources	Resources
Teaching & Lesson Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BrainPop video + lesson plan from PBS (BrainPop + PBS) ● Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus (NPR) ● Dangerous Numbers? Teaching about Data & Statistics Using Coronavirus Outbreak (New York Times) ● Speaking Up Against Racism Around The New Coronavirus (Tolerance.org) ● Coronavirus: Fostering Empathy In An Interconnected World (Morningside) ● Digital Citizenship Curriculum: News & Media Literacy (CommonSense) ● Scholastic: Teaching Our World - Coronavirus has a collection of resources broken down by grade-level that will help teachers explain COVID-19 to kids.
Talking to Students About Coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDC: Talking with Children about Coronavirus Disease - includes tangible guidelines about talking to kids ● CDC: How To Get Your Household Ready For Coronavirus (CDC) ● Talking to Teens and Tweens About the Coronavirus (New York Times) written for parents, but useful for teachers as well. ● Public Health Emergency: Psychological Tips for Children & Adolescents' Emotions (HEMot) ● Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - A Parent Resource (Mount Laurel School District /National Association of School Psychologists) ● Child Mind Institute shared an article that explains that kids worry more when they're kept in the dark, and it provides ways to talk to kids about the virus.
Multilingual resources specific to Coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talking about Coronavirus in ASL from the American Society of Deaf Children ● Coronavirus: Multilingual Resources for Schools ● COVID-19 Printable Fact Sheets ● The Academia de las Lenguas Mayas de Guatemala has created COVID-19 video advisories in multiple indigenous languages of Guatemala for their Campaña Prevención Coronavirus COVID-19.

	<p>Their channel includes COVID-19 advisories in: Achi, Akateka, Awakateka, Chalchiteka, Chuj, Kaqchikel, K'iche', Mam, Popti', Sakapulteka, Tektiteko, and Tz'utujil.</p>
Support for Undocumented Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigrants Rising put together this list of resources to help undocumented immigrants navigate the crisis.

ACADEMIC LEARNING RESOURCES

Below are three tables of resources you can leverage during this time. The first table has information about where you can support students and families without internet access to get temporary access. The second table is platforms that can apply to any classroom/grade/content. The third table is organized for specific contents and/or grades, with stand-alone virtual learning resources, curricula that could be implemented on virtual platforms, or free sources of printables. These are representative of some of the strongest and most used resources at your disposal and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible resources at your disposal.

Free Internet or Device Options

Virtual Teaching Platforms	Guidance, Tips, and Additional Resources
National Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comcast offers “Internet Essentials” for 60 days to low-income individuals. News Article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to sign up ● AT&T offers the “Access Program” which provides low-cost home internet to qualifying households for \$5-10 a month, no deposit or installation fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to find out if you qualify and sign-up ● Charter Communications & Spectrum Services are offering free broadband & wifi to households with K-12 and college students in their service areas (over 41 states) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to learn more ● School districts can apply to get access mobile hotspots or cell phones to support distance learning through the 1Million Project Foundation by completing a survey here.
Local Options	<p>Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find local options with EverywhereOn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to the COVID-19 special page of a non-profit that helps you find local free or reduced-cost internet providers in your area/zip code ● New York State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spectrum Wifi--Free for 60 days to K-12 and/or college students. ● LOCALITY

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option <p>Devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New York City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get iPad loaners for students from the NYC Department of Education
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Free Virtual Teaching Platforms & Technology

Virtual Teaching Platforms	Guidance, Tips, and Additional Resources
Google Classroom	<p>Use Google Classroom to engage students in assignments virtually, assign & grade assignments, and ask students to collaborate within various Google tools. You create the content in Google Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you anticipate using this with your students, try your best to set it up and introduce it to your students before school closes. ● Make sure to set students up with emails, teach them how to use it, and that you have alternative contact means to get in touch with your students if they are non-responsive to emails while they are out ● Here are a few links that might help you learn how to leverage Google Classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 Tips ○ Beginners Guide ○ Video Guide to Set Up & Use Google ○ Teachers Using Google Suite for Education (Facebook Support Group)
Khan Academy	<p>Khan Academy has full courses in K-12 STEM (math and science), including math aligned to Eureka/EngageNY math. It also has ELA beta courses and some Social Sciences courses, as well as college and test prep courses. As a teacher, you can assign lessons to students individually, and the course will auto-assign lessons to students tailored to their performance. The content has been created in Khan Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khan released proposed schedules of learning for students at home in different grade levels. Check them out here. ● If you plan on using Khan Academy during a prolonged school closure, try to set students up to use it before the closure begins. Use Khan Academy in class before the closure to facilitate learning the expectations and procedures of the platform.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Here is a link that might help you learn how to leverage Khan Academy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Videos & resources for teachers on how to get started, implement, and details about courses & content. <p>NOTE: Khan Academy is also available in Spanish! This can be useful for students whose native language is Spanish or are in bilingual programming.</p>
Edmodo	<p>Edmodo is a platform you can use to create your own distance learning and virtual courses with students for free. (Similar to Google Classrooms in that it is a platform, and you have to provide the content).</p> <p>The main website comes with a host of step-by-step instructions and instructional videos.</p>
Video Conferencing Platforms	<p>While online learning cannot happen entirely via video conferencing, as students' home schedules are likely in flux, it can be a powerful tool to leverage in addition to a platform like Google Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zoom is temporarily giving K-12 schools access to video conferencing for free. (Forbes article) This is a great resource for video conferencing and includes the ability to share your screen, create breakout rooms, share a "white board" and many more interactive features. This is also a resource that teachers could use to "record" a mini-lesson or short lecture or guide while sharing their screen with a slides and then upload the video to Google Classroom or email/text to students. Link to sign up - must use school email address ● WebEx is also temporarily making its video conferencing platforms free to teachers. A similar platform as zoom with the ability to share screens, create breakout rooms, and record. Learn more here. ● RingCentral Office is temporarily offering its platform for free to K-12 educators. It includes video conferencing, team messaging, SMS, and fax. Learn more here.
Additional Free Tools	<p>FlipGrid--A free application that allows teachers and students to upload short videos to promote and encourage class "discussion" during remote learning.</p> <p>Free Tools for Schools Dealing with Corona--A list of companies that have discounted or removed costs for schools to alleviate & support with learning during school closures (including Kahoot, Google Hangouts Premium, and more).</p>

	Check your local library system’s website. Many libraries have high quality resources, online book check-outs, or even online learning platforms you can access with your library card.
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Content Specific Resources

The following resources are either: (1) content specific stand-alone virtual learning platforms (such as DuoLingo); (2) curricula and/or resources not designed to be used online, but you could leverage and adapt on a platform like Google Classroom; and (3) source for printable passages, books, etc.

Grade and/or Content	Type of Resources	Links to Resources
K-12 Math and ELA	Curricula	<p>While not designed to be used virtually, these two sources have high-quality resources for pre-K-12 curricula for ELA and math. If you are unable to leverage your school’s curricula, these are two strong places to turn to leverage as you plan homework packets, Google Classroom activities, or otherwise consider student learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage NY ● UnBoundEd
K-5/6 ELA	Printable passages and books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading A to Z <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Printable books, passages, and resources for students ○ Costs to have an account ○ For grades K-5 ● Time for Kids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student articles grades K-6
K-12 ELA	Printable & Virtual Reading Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newsela <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ News articles that can be easily adjusted for different reading levels/lexiles ○ Printables <i>and</i> virtual learning are available ○ For all grades ○ The free version of Newsela does not give you access to student data

		<p>but students have access to their own progress on assignments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ However, during the coronavirus, NewsELA has made their premium content free for educators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scholastic released video & text-based lessons for grades K-6 for distance learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Day-by-day” projects, videos, & lessons for distance learning and home learning ● Open Library - “Borrow” books and read a book on a web-browser or by downloading a PDF. Many books also have audio-book or “listen” options. Users need an email to create a log-in, but otherwise is open-access and free. ● Epic Books is free for educators, who can then add students to their own account so that students can log-in from home. Many of the books have “read to me” options. Teachers must invite students through their accounts; families/individuals have to pay to get accounts.
ECE (preschool, pre-K, K) *can also be used 1-3	ECE lessons, activities, and materials for home learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NAEYC: Math Learning at Home (Toolkit of 20+ resources)* ● NAEYC: Creating Mini Centers at Home (Inspiration, ideas, and directions for setting up classroom-like Centers at home)* ● Playdough Power: Learning Extensions and Recipe* ● PBS Kids Games (Math, Feelings, Literacy) ● Sesame Street Learning Videos ● Cox Campus: Emergent Writing Activities for Families ● Erikson’s Big Ideas in Early Math (each concept links to relevant lessons and activities)* ● E-Books published by Rollins, available via Cox Campus* ● Exercise & Yoga videos for PE/movement/physical development ● Starfall.com is always free and has some early literacy and language development activities mostly that don’t require adult guidance for children to use. ● List of ideas/resources for at home learning/preschool activities
PK-5 ELA	Websites that read stories to children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Storyline Online ● Free Children Stories ● Epic Books is free for educators, who can then add students to their own account so that students can log-in from home. Many of the books have “read

		<p>to me” options. Teachers must invite students through their accounts; families/individuals have to pay to get accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khan Academy released proposed learn-from-home daily agendas organized by grade levels.
PK-5 Math	Online Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Zearn Math - Zearn K-5 Math curriculum - including 400 hours of digital lessons with on-screen teachers and supportive remediation. Resources, curriculum and webinars provided free during COVID.
Secondary ELA	Curriculums and readings: Printables or for use with Google Classroom--including some mini-units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CommonLit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ over 2,000 high-quality free reading passages for grades 3-12, complemented by aligned interim assessments, growth-oriented data, and expert-led teacher development. ○ Lessons specifically tailored for Coronavirus school closures with mini-units and texts linked here ● NY Times writing curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A flexible program for middle and high schools based on the real-world writing found in newspapers, from editorials and reviews to personal narratives and analysis essays ● Khan Academy released proposed learn-from-home daily agendas organized by grade levels.
Secondary Social Studies	Virtual Curricula and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts and Humanities Khan Academy Fully free, fully online courses across several Social Studies disciplines. ● iCivics Free virtual lesson plans and games designed to guide students through meaningful civic learning. ● SERP Institute Middle school social studies units that support disciplinary literacy ● Khan Academy released proposed learn-from-home daily agendas organized by grade levels.
World Languages	Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Duolingo: A free, popular and highly-gamified app for language learning. ● Spanish Grammar video lessons from Lisa Acker ● L2 Media: Consider gathering some texts (articles, blogs, stories), audio clips (podcasts, music), and/or videos in the target language for students to engage

		<p>with. Here is an example for Spanish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spanish Podcast Episodes - Duolingo ○ Listen to Music in Spanish: 10 Fun Spanish Songs to Help You Learn Spanish Faster ○ Spanish Readings - Beginner Level ● Example of a Spanish “Choice Board” one teacher made for their class. ● Example of a French “Choice Board” another teacher made for their class ● List of links of World Language resources during COVID related school closures ● Follow #langchat and #COVID19WL on Twitter for ideas and updates in real time (possibly using tweetdeck.twitter.com to collect resources) ● FlipGrid--Have students practice short videos of them practicing a conversation or sharing a response in the target language. ● Translated Children’s Stories Well-known children's stories translated into Spanish and spoken by a native Spanish speaker. Read along in Spanish or English (or watch a video and listen to it)! ● International Children’s Library provides free digitized picture books in multiple languages - you can search by language and by country of origin.
K-12 STEM	Curricula and activities: Printables or Virtual use with Google Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TeachEngineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Searchable, web-based digital library collection comprised of engineering curricula for use by k-12 educators like activities, lessons, units, and more. ● To support all educators during this time, the National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) is offering a free 30-day membership. This will provide them with access to more than 12,000 digital professional learning resources and tools (most of which they can download and use when the free period ends). ● Science with Sophie Is a channel of science vidoes and lesson plans to be used at home. The videos are brief, provocative, and could serve as a great intro to a topic of sense-making reflection. Some attention to diversity (i.e. highlighting women in STEM, children of color, music & comedy). ● Khan Academy released proposed learn-from-home daily agendas organized by grade levels.
Secondary STEM	Interactive activities & Videos: Printables or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Concord Consortium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bring out the inner scientist in all your students with our scientifically

	Virtual use with Google Classroom	<p>accurate models and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tips on Math Videos Advice on how to use math videos in a “flipped” classroom
Secondary Test Prep	Virtual test prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shmoop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online courses, college readiness prep, award-winning test prep, and free study guides balance a teen-friendly, approachable style with academically rigorous materials. ● Khan Academy for SAT & other test prep ● No Red Ink: Has a limited set of mastery-based writing lessons for free (and more for a paid account) for students to practice writing for standardized tests
College Search & Prep Resources		<p>While high school students are out of class, consider having them start searching for college fit, or applying for scholarships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunity Scholarships from College Board--Enter to win scholarships by completing steps as part of a path toward college acceptance (Only for class of 2021 currently) ● College Finder tool from College Board to search for colleges that match student needs & interests ● College Green Light a free program connecting first generation and underrepresented students to caring colleges, generous scholarships, and life-changing counselors and mentors. <p>Resources for AP Teachers from the College Board during coronavirus pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide for getting AP classes going virtually
Social Emotional Learning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Move This World is providing access to their coronavirus unique SEL videos and breathing exercises for families for free.
All content areas	Clearinghouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educator Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehensive list of open/free resources for teachers. ● Virtual Museum Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This Lifehacker link boasts over 500+ gallery links ○ Forbes article with links & brief guides ● Homeschool Parents share resources and databases of resources; themed as anti-oppressive, anti-racists homeschool curricula

Population/Placement Specific Resources

Population	Resources
Students with disabilities & Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● List of Google Chrome extensions that serve as Assistive Technology to support a wide range of needs, including Text-To-Speech, Readability, and Navigation. ● Considerations for Special Education Administrators (from the Council of Administrators of Special Education) - including information for schools, questions to consider, and other resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes a link to the Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities' resources page that includes information on how to prepare online teachers to work with students in special education and more. ● The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has established a working group to address the needs of students with disabilities during the COVID pandemic. This Fact Sheet may serve as a helpful tool to students, parents, educators, and administrators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 In Schools While Protecting the Rights of Students ● Conducting Virtual IEP Meetings resource with useful ideas, tips, and considerations. ● The National Center for Learning Disabilities and Understood have released a Legal FAQs resource on Coronavirus, School Closings, and Special Education ● The National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools has also released a detailed resource on COVID-19 and Students with Disabilities. It includes key takeaways for districts and school leaders, requirements for serving students with disabilities, and strategies to educate students with disabilities in the event of school closures. ● Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) Q&A document on providing services to children with disabilities during COVID-19. ● Accessible Teaching in the Time of COVID-19 - written for universities shifting to virtual learning but contains lots of practical considerations for how to increase accessible that all teachers could benefit from, including how to prepare to shift to virtual learning by checking in with students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please Do a Bad Job Of Putting Your Courses Online - another article written for university professors with helpful advice for accessibility and self-preservation. ● Supporting Students with Disabilities in K-12 Online & Blended Learning - a guide from the Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute ● Bookshare provides ebooks for people with disabilities for free based on your reading need (audio,

	<p>audio+highlighted text, braille, large-font, and other formats). Users must have a “competent authority” certify their disability (for some cases, this can include special education teachers), and then they can access over 800,000 titles. Some schools & institutions can also get accounts for the their whole organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talking about Coronavirus in ASL from the American Society of Deaf Children
Supporting Linguistically Diverse Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Khan Academy but in Spanish! Great resource to leverage when supporting LDS whose native language is Spanish and/or who are in dual language/bilingual programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “How to use Khan Academy for remote learning” is a guide for families. Use the text at the top of the page to see it in 19 different languages ● MamaLingua Free Downloads--A resource for families to learn English & Spanish together with some helpful resources specific to learning at home during school closures. Catered mostly to younger learners (perhaps 2-7 year olds) ● ESL Video--Free quizzes, lessons, and online conversation classes for Linguistically Diverse Students with a variety of topics sorted by English language development level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ User-guide for teachers ● Free digitized picture books written in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and much more. Some books are bilingual. Great for vocabulary development, motivation and engagement with ELL readers. Provides ideas for literacy activities. You can create your own account of digital books for your classroom and lesson planning needs. ● Resources from Colorín Colorado, a bilingual site for the educators & families of Linguistically Diverse Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coronavirus: Multilingual Resources for Schools ○ School Responses to COVID-19: Considerations for ELLs & Immigrants ● TalkingPoints: An app that allows you to reach all of your students' families via text in different languages (free for teachers). ● Translated Children’s Stories Well-known children's stories translated into Spanish and spoken by a native Spanish speaker. Read along in Spanish or English (or watch a video and listen to it)! ● Starfall.com has free activities for early literacy and language development that is geared at young students and can support ● International Children’s Library provides free digitized picture books in multiple languages - you can search by language and by country of origin.
Support for Undocumented Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immigrants Rising put together this list of resources to help undocumented immigrants navigate the crisis.

HOW TO BE A GREAT VIRTUAL TEACHER.

In this section, you will find a curated set of tips to approach your process of moving your classroom to a virtual platform, followed by a list of articles & resources that provide additional tips, guides, or other resources.

Looking for free webinars or recorded trainings regarding online/virtual learning? Check out [this list](#) here.

Or learn from what is happening with Teach For All partners around the world in [this message](#) from Wendy Kopp.

Top Tips for Moving Your Class Online

1. Let Go of Perfectionism *and* Bring a Systems Lens

Remember you are not designing an entire online course from scratch, you are problem-solving to temporarily provide access to rigorous learning to students online at the last minute. Just dive in, get started, and learn alongside your kids about how to do it. Consider some of the advice from [this article](#) called “Please do a bad job of putting your courses online.” Scaffolding students usage of an online learning platform will be just as essential as scaffolding content learning.

At the same time, allow yourself moments throughout the process to step back and consider what about this experience could change your practices long-term to make your classroom and teaching more accessible and inclusive. Consider what principles of instruction from online learning that you might want to apply to classroom instruction, and consider how you might be able to leverage online tools with students in the future.

2. Set Up Your Online Systems & (if possible) Practice Before School Closes

First things first, set up your Google Classroom or other platform. Enter your students, set up the class, and basic infrastructure. It might help to watch a few online videos about how to do it, or just jump in and learn by doing.

If you have advanced warning, practice with your students & their families. Be sure students know how to log-in. Teach lessons on how to find announcements & assignments, check their grades, etc. If your students are younger, reach out to parents via email, text, or letters home and consider creating a video of yourself explaining and demonstrating the system.

Regardless of whether you have advanced warning or not, a detailed, step-by-step guide on how to use the online platform (with screenshots) will help both students and parents troubleshoot access from home.

3. Consider equity of access

Many of your students may not have access to either the internet or a device--or will have inconsistent access. Ensure you take these circumstances into account in both your communication and expectations. Additionally, keep in mind your students' computer literacy and typing skills. You might provide more flexible deadlines or estimate longer completion times for typed responses than you would for in-class handwritten assignments. Are your students not able to engage in virtual learning? Consider some of the tips from the Analog Distance Learning resources on [this site](#).

Also keep in mind that many of your students may be accessing your online course from mobile devices (phones or tablets), so try your best to ensure you primarily use learning platforms and features that are mobile-enabled, or to enable mobile options in the settings.

4. Use the principles of strong teaching

Consider the muscles you've built in rooting your practice in Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and flex them as you move online. Also consider the principles of Universal Design for Learning as you design learning that is responsive to the variable learning strengths, needs, and preferences of all of your learners. Be attentive to the linguistic strengths & needs of your students, especially in relation to computer/internet vocabulary.

In addition:

- Start from a clear set of learning goals and backwards design toward that goal, considering multiple paths students might take to reach that goal.
- Break content into chunks
- Be clear about expectations--both about online learning itself and about academic expectations. Consider using rubrics or examples.
- Provide frequent feedback through online knowledge checks, comments on assignments, or chat features to keep students on track, motivated, and feeling supported
- Ensure students have a way to ask you questions as they work on assignments or get stuck
- Promote metacognition to support their own learning. Ask reflection questions as a part of each assignment such as
 - In what ways, if any, did this assignment change your understanding of the topic?
 - What did you find most challenging about this assignment?
 - What do you still want to know about this topic?
 - What did you enjoy most about this assignment?
 - What did you discover about yourself as a person? As a learner?

5. Design both collaborative & independent learning opportunities

Keep students feeling connected to one another by having them engage with each other in the online platform to the extent is possible based on your students' age, access, and the online platform. Have them engage in comments or text-based chats; or think creatively about having them upload short videos of their ideas--especially if your students already use social media outlets in similar ways.

Also provide them with learning opportunities that won't require the support of adults or older siblings and can engage with independently without frequent teacher & adult support.

6. Use multiple forms of communication both to and from students & families

If you have an announcement, don't just post it in the announcement section--email it, post it in announcements, and in other frequent places your students might be utilizing. Always ensure multiple points of access so that students & families don't miss vital information.

Ensure students & families have multiple ways to communicate with you--whether that's simply posting your email at the end of every single announcement/assignment/communication so that they can always click on it, or ensuring they have both your email and phone number and professional social media handles, etc.

7. Consider creating a social media account for your class

Reach your students & families where they are. Do you know most of your students are on TikTok? Most of your students' parents are on Instagram? Consider creating a private social media account for your students & their families where you can post class announcements, assignments, tips, true "mini" lesson videos, reminders, shout-outs, and encouragement.

8. Carve out reflection time for yourself on the process

Always assess & adjust. You are learning how to use online learning platforms as a teacher just as your students are learning how to use it as learners. Schedule time for yourself to reflect on how the experience is going for you and for your students. Ask yourself questions like:

- Do I see trends in student participation? What are all the reasons that might be behind that?
- What am I learning about my students from their reflections on assignments? As people? As learners? As participants of my virtual classroom?
- What could I do to make this learning more accessible? More inclusive? More rigorous? More meaningful?
- How am I doing physically, mentally, and emotionally? How are my students and families doing physically, mentally, and emotionally?
 - [Stay The Course](#) is offering twice weekly "[Power Hours](#)" for teachers to drop into a video conference and stay connected, healthy, energized & resilient.

Additional Resources & Guides

Type of Resource	Resources
<p>Getting Started Tips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine your model: A helpful guide from Instructional Partners about the various models of distance learning (digital, analog, hybrid), with links to tips, guides, and resources. ● Online Teaching Toolkit: Intended for higher ed, but many practices may translate easily to K-12 and is put together to support educators with a rapid transition to online learning. ● Please Do a Bad Job Of Putting Your Courses Online - Written for university professors with helpful advice for accessibility and self-preservation, and orientation to rejecting perfectionism. (Also consider, however, the adaptive, systems change that this experience could lead to to be more inclusive of all students) ● 10 strategies for online learning during a coronavirus outbreak A short guide from International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) to support teachers with the specific context of transitioning to online learning due to coronavirus--a mix of technical, instructional, and general tips ● Going Online In a Hurry: What To Do and Where to Start A list of steps to guide your process of transitioning from in-class instruction to virtual setting with a list of both guiding questions and helpful tips. Written with college-level instructors in mind, but still an applicable process of thinking, metacognition and guiding questions. ● Online Learning Guidelines: OREO This short blog post, including an infographic with links, supports readers to focus in on four of the most essential principles of online learning: Objectives, Responsibilities, Expectations, Organization ● Global Online Academy's quick advice about the attitudes and ideas to keep in mind as you transition from in-person to online learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
<p>Improving Your Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting Students with Disabilities in K-12 Online & Blended Learning - a guide from the Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute ● UDL on Campus Ensure your learning is Universally Designed for all learners. Consider this set of resources & tips geared at university level to embed principles of Universal Design for Learning into practice. ● How to be a better online teacher A guide to being a strong online teacher--not specific to coronavirus moment of rapid change. Some of the guidance is more college/university focused, but great tips for K-12 (and especially secondary) teachers as well. From the Chronicle of Higher Learning.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 tips for online teaching Ten “less-well known” tips for online learning--such as creating a social media account, providing multiple means of communication, and the use of both student and teacher reflection questions. Some content is specific to a college context. ● Best Practices For Online Learning: Short, one-page infographic PDF with general best practices to make learning engaging and relevant. ● Tips about teaching remotely from the blog Free Tech for Teachers (also a list of tools) ● Accessible Teaching in the Time of COVID-19 - written for universities shifting to virtual learning but contains lots of practical considerations for how to increase accessible that all teachers could benefit from, including how to prepare to shift to virtual learning by checking in with students. ● Humanizing Online Teaching - tips from researchers regarding the online pedagogical practices that promote care for the whole student and class ● Virtual Learning Navigator - a resource from Teach For All with tools, templates, and guides from bringing learning online and virtual.
<p>Courses About Virtual Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Online Academy’s Designing for Online Learning - this is a free online course that is running from March 16-20th. It’s designed to be light lift, introductory course for teachers (about 45-60 minutes per day for five days) and covers “nuts and bolts” of online learning, student community, design, assessment, and professional community. They’ll be offering additional courses, including this one depending on demand, which you can be notified about if you sign up for their newsletter. ● Outschool webinars on “telelearning”--45 minute minute webinars for free on moving to online learning for ages 3-18. Offered frequently.
<p>Tools & Lists of Tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tools for Online Learning - includes a list of apps + platforms that can be leveraged in distance learning to share content and create discussions ● Common Sense Media has curated recommendations for the best student collaboration tools, messaging apps, lesson-planning websites, interactive video apps, tools for project-based learning, and apps and websites for flipped classrooms and virtual field trips. ● Free Teach For Teachers blog has both tips and long list of free tools ● Resources for Social Distancing With Kids List of online tools for young students (possibly a resource to share with parents) ● Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions due to School Closings

PSYCHOLOGICAL TIPS FOR MANAGING CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS

(This section is written with adults in mind. **To see a PDF of a version for students, [click here](#)**)

- Note: [Stay The Course](#) is offering twice weekly “[Power Hours](#)” for teachers to drop into a video conference and stay connected, healthy, energized & resilient.

Recognizing Distress - A Self-Check List

- Increased anxiety, worry, fear, and feelings of being overwhelmed
- Depressive symptoms that persist and/or intensify
- Inability to focus or concentrate accompanied by decreased academic performance
- A feeling of hopelessness and/or a paralyzing fear about the future
- Sudden anger and disruptive behaviors or noticeable changes in personality
- Sleep difficulties
- Excessive Crying
- Isolating or withdrawing from others, fear of going into public situations
- Unhealthy coping (e.g., increased alcohol or drug use, engaging in risky/impulsive behaviors)

Psychological Health Tips

- Acknowledge reactions. Allow yourself time to reflect on what you are feeling and how you may be reacting to any fears and uncertainties of the future.
- Maintain your day-to-day normal activities and social outlets. Resist withdrawing and isolating yourself from the support and caring that others can provide.
- Seek accurate information from “The Center for Disease Control & Prevention” and limit exposure to social media and news reports that provide no new information.
- Pay attention to positive news instead of only focusing on negative and fear-producing reports.
- Follow the protection and prevention tips given by medical professionals, national medical authorities and your own medical doctor.
- Practice calming rituals: Stay grounded in the present moment, which can help you maintain an internal sense of stability and balance when outside events feel threatening.
- Seek supports. Reach out to friends and family. If you or someone you know has high distress that does not seem to be lessening, talk about it with others.

Avoid Stigmatizing or Generalizing

- Be aware of your behavior or attitude change towards others from another country
- Avoid generalizing anyone who is sick as potentially having the Coronavirus
- Examine any irrational or rigid thoughts that can exist when there is uncertainty