

Resources for the Blended Learning Environment

A safe and positive learning environment, whether in-person or online, is essential for student learning. The resources below can help you overcome the challenges of creating an online learning environment to ensure students feel included, safe, and connected to educators and their classmates. Because the blended learning model may include face-to-face interaction, health and safety considerations are of utmost importance

What is blended learning?

Blended Learning is an education program that integrates a virtual and face-to-face learning environment for students. In a blended learning environment:

- The student has some control over place, path, and pace of learning;
- Learning usually occurs through an integrated curriculum;
- The learning cycle flows best when unpacked as pre-learning activities that prepare students to engage in both the virtual and face-to-face learning environment;
- The next phase of learning is the instructor-led session in which the educator directs student activities to ensure that learning goals are met; and
- Post-learning activities in which the educator uses evaluative data to provide appropriate assignments that reinforce and expand learning goals.

Resources

Health and Safety	Equity	Technology
<p>CDC Toolkit for K-12 Schools¹ links to multiple topics related to COVID-19 including the use of face coverings in schools, student screening, and strategies for protecting school staff.</p> <p>Guide to SEL During COVID² contains a curated list of resources to address trauma and students' basic needs during the pandemic.</p> <p>NEA All Hands on Deck³ provides guidance in planning for school reopening focusing on health, safety, student learning, and equity.</p>	<p>Classroom resources from Teaching Tolerance⁹ provides lessons, texts, and activities emphasizing social justice and anti-bias.</p> <p>Meeting Digital Needs of Underserved Families¹⁰ is a short video sharing tips and ideas for supporting students in their digital needs</p> <p>NEA Equity in Digital Instruction for Special Education¹¹ offers guidance on meeting the needs of special education students during school closures.</p>	<p>Apps and Websites for Learning¹⁹ lists free apps and websites across grade levels in a variety of content areas including music, arts, STEM, computer science, mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies, and more.</p> <p>Internet Access & Devices²⁰ provides information on access to tools for distance learning, such as free and low-cost Internet and devices.</p> <p>NEA Protecting Privacy During Pandemic²¹ provides an overview of guidelines related to online student and educator privacy.</p>



COVID-19

Resources

Health and Safety

[NEA Guidance for Meal Service](#)⁴ provides information on continuing meal service during school closures.

[NEA Webinar Safe Return to In-Person Instruction](#)⁵ is a 90-minute webinar covering questions related to reopening, accommodations for high-risk individuals, federal leave laws, and basic protections needed for a safe reopening.

[Student Screening Questionnaire](#)⁶ can be used in the school or by families to monitor student wellness.

Communication

[Check-in Survey](#)⁷ can be customized to assess the needs and well-being of students and parents.

[Distance Learning Cheat Sheet](#)⁸ is a template designed for student and family use that contains quick reference information on school contacts and how to locate and submit assignments and learning resources.

Equity

[NEA LGBTQ Checklist](#)¹² provides educators with a tool to assess their virtual classroom for LGBTQ supports.

[NEA online checklist for social justice](#)¹³ provides guidance on planning online instruction to ensure equity for all students.

[UDL Apps](#)¹⁴ contains a curated list of tools to support Universal Design for Learning implementation.

Community

[Building Community](#)¹⁵ provides resources on building a nurturing online community.

[Connected Learning](#)¹⁶ provides six principles to build a connected online learning community.

[Engagement Strategies for Online Learning](#)¹⁷ is a short webinar on how to use student engagement to build community.

[Virtual Back-to-School Night](#)¹⁸ provides ideas and tips for hosting a successful back-to-school meeting.

Technology

[NEA Digital Learning Policy statement](#)²² provides NEA's beliefs and guidance related to digital learning.

[NEA Digital Supports](#)²³ contains multiple resources focused on pivoting to a virtual learning environment including NEA's Remote Teaching and Learning Courses.

[What is Cyberbullying?](#)²⁴ contains resources for parents and teachers on how to recognize, report, and prevent cyberbullying.

[Keeping Children Safe Online](#)²⁵ provides tips for parents on how to protect children from online predators and how to report suspicious activity.

[Digital Learning Agreement](#)²⁶ is a customizable document that can be used to establish norms for responsible and safe digital learning practices.

[Devices for Learning](#)²⁷ is a downloadable quick reference document to share with students and parents with school-issued devices.



COVID-19

RESOURCES:

- 1 "Toolkit for K-12 Schools." (August 2020). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html).
- 2 "Reading Rockets-NEA Guide: Social-Emotional Learning During COVID-19." Reading Rockets. Retrieved from readingrockets.org/reading-rockets-nea-guide/social-emotional-learning-during-covid-19-strategies-and-more.
- 3 "All Hands on Deck." (2020). National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/27178-Initial-Guidance-for-Reopening-Schools_Final-1.pdf.
- 4 "Providing School Meal Service During COVID-19." National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/meeting-students-and-families-needs/providing-school-meal-service-during-covid-19.
- 5 "Member Webinar: Returning Safely to In-Person Instruction." National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/your-rights/returning-safely-to-in-person-instruction-what-educators-need-to-know.
- 6 "Screening Students for COVID-19: A Downloadable Questionnaire." (July 2020). Education Week. Retrieved from edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/screening-students-for-covid-19-a-downloadable-questionnaire.html.
- 7 "For Educators: COVID Check-in Survey (NEW!)." (2020). Harvard Graduate School of Education. Retrieved from mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-educators/covid-check-in-survey.
- 8 "Distance Learning FAQ Cheat Sheet." WIDEOPENSCHOOL. Retrieved from wideopenschool.org/families-and-teachers/for-teachers.
- 9 "Culturally Responsive Teaching: What You Need to Know." Understood. Retrieved from understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/universal-design-for-learning/what-is-culturally-responsive-teaching.
- 10 "Meeting the Digital Needs of Underserved Families." WIDEOPENSCHOOL. Retrieved from wideopenschool.org/search/?swp=student+socialization&audience=families-and-teachers.
- 11 "Equity in Digital Instruction: Special Education." National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/your-rights/equity-in-digital-instruction-special-education.
- 12 "A Checklist to Support LGBTQ Students During Distance Learning." National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/meeting-students-and-families-needs/a-checklist-to-support-lgbtq-students-during-distance-learning.
- 13 "A Social Justice Checklist for Online Instruction." National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/your-rights/a-social-justice-checklist-for-online-instruction.
- 14 "UDL Apps: Tools for Supporting UDL Implementation in the Classroom." Pinterest. Retrieved from pinterest.com/lfperez411/udl-apps.
- 15 "Back to School 2020: Building Community for Connection and Learning." Facing History and Ourselves. Retrieved from facinghistory.org/resource-library/back-school-2020-building-community-connection-and-learning.



COVID-19

- 16 “Why Connected Learning?” Connected Learning Alliance. Retrieved from ala.org/pla/sites/ala.org.pla/files/content/initiatives/iii/WHY-CONNECTED-LEARNING.pdf.
- 17 “Engagement Strategies for Reimagined Classrooms.” (July 2020). Retrieved from <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/commonsense20200713>.
- 18 “How to Host a Virtual Back-to-School Night.” (August 2020). Common Sense Education. Retrieved from commonsense.org/education/articles/how-to-host-a-virtual-back-to-school-night.
- 19 “The Best Free Apps and Websites for Learning.” Common sense education. Retrieved from commonsense.org/education/top-picks/the-best-free-apps-and-websites-for-learning.
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- 21 “Protecting the Privacy of Students and Educators During the Pandemic.” National Education Association. Retrieved from educatingthroughcrisis.org/your-rights/protecting-the-privacy-of-students-and-educators-during-the-pandemic.
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- 26 “Digital Learning Agreement for Grades 6-12.” WIDEOPENSCHOOL. Retrieved from wideopenschool.org/families-and-teachers/for-teachers.
- 27 “Learning Devices FAQ: Customizable Guide.” WIDEOPENSCHOOL. Retrieved from wideopenschool.org/families-and-teachers/for-teachers.