

Digital Learning Overview

These are unprecedented times for sure! You may be thinking about how to keep the continuity of teaching going through an extended school closure. Your district is probably trying to figure out what that looks like as well.

I have gathered some resources below to help you begin some research on your own to become comfortable with this process of transition. As always, check with your district and school administrators on what things will look like at your particular location in the coming weeks. Here is a link to grade-level specific computers science resources - [click here](#) (coming soon)

If there are other resources you need or support that I can provide, please don't hesitate to reach out to me through email: cchang@doe.nv.gov | Twitter: @CindiChang | LinkedIn: Cindi Chang

Important Reminders for Teachers When Instructing Online

- **Focus on what works best for YOUR students based on age, content, and technology access.** This may include all online (accessed through computer/laptop/iPad/phone), a combination of online and unplugged lessons and activities, phone calls and email instructions
- **Create asynchronous learning experiences.** Not all students will be able to access your content at the same time, especially if they are sharing devices with their siblings, so keep this in mind as you are creating your content.
- **Less is more for quantity of assignments and instruction.** Ask yourself, what assignment or video instruction will get the message across clearly and succinctly. Keep video instructions short (3 mins or less) or consider breaking them apart by topic. Focus on only a few main topics you want to get across. Keep things simple right now. Things are already a bit stressful for everyone.
- **Offer a variety of options and experiences to allow for personalization of the learning.** Have students watch a video demonstration, assign writing prompts, offer multiple activity options for students to choose from.
- **Give explicit instructions and time expectations.** Without certain facial cues or body language that supports face-to-face instruction, It is impossible to get your point across without clear, concise instructions and expectations.
- **Specify expectations for students and parents.** Don't forget to include the parents in this online journey. Give them a login/access to the portal/content so they can better support their child and support the teacher.
- **Be empathetic and flexible to the circumstances.** Consider overlooking "late" work. Each home is reacting to their unique situation. Where before we were able to work with the students outside of their home situation, now we are working with them from inside it and all that may entail.
- **Communicate consistently and constantly.** Email, family newsletters, chat within the online portal, phone calls home, etc.
- **Become familiar with the technology and tools needed to participate in the work and stick with them.** Reach out to school, district and state leaders for support guidance and training as needed.

- **Schedule online “office hours”.** Your students will enjoy the opportunity to “see” you and their fellow students. Plus, it will prepare them for the future as many businesses use video conferencing to conduct their work.
- **Encourage collaboration among your students.** Conferencing apps like Zoom and Google Meet will allow you to “jump” into virtual classrooms for collaboration time and then “jump” back into the main “classroom” again for shareout. They can also collaborate via phone or email.
- **Connect with other educators and the DOE for support.** You are not alone! We are taking this journey together. Reach out to a colleague. If you don’t have one, reach out to meet and I will put you in touch with one.
- **Take care of yourself!** First and foremost remember to “put your mask on first” just like the safety instructions on an airplane. You can’t be there for your students, your family, or anyone else for that matter, unless you take care of yourself first.

Important Reminders for Students When Learning Online

- **Check your email & communicate.** You must remain an active participant in your learning. Communicate often with your teacher through the method they prescribe for you.
- **Plan your time each day and schedule breaks.** Work with your caregiver to plan out a schedule for the day’s study time. Think about following the regular school day or make one of your own that fits better with your family’s schedule. Remember to include regular “brain” breaks.
- **Have a distraction free place to work/study.** A desk with all the tools you need at hand is always the best. The most important place though is one where you can relax, process the information you are accessing, and complete the activities requested. For younger students, a quiet place where parents/caregivers can support the learning is optimal.
- **Focus on learning styles that work best for you.** If you receive optional activities to work on, try several of them to see which learning style/activity you like best and helps you learn. You may find a different learning style that works for you better than you thought!
- **Become familiar with the technology and tools needed to participate in the work.** Seek out resources to help you understand a new technology, device, or tool. Ask Google for resources. Lifelong learning is important for everyone to take part in. Search for answers on your own first, then reach out to others when you have tried everything else.
- **Collaborate with others.** Conferencing apps like Zoom and Google Meet will allow you to visually collaborate with your classmates and teacher. You can work on projects together, hold club meetings, and so much more! You can also collaborate via phone or email. Many conferencing apps work on a smartphone as well.
- **Take care of yourself!** Use proper hygiene, wash your hands often using soap and warm water while singing your favorite song for 20 seconds or more, and do your best to follow the safety measures put in place by your parents and other individuals at this time.

Pedagogical Resources

[3 Models for e-Learning Days](#)

Curriculum Resources for Computer Science

- [Code.org](#) - Computer Science Curriculum (online and unplugged lessons) for K-12
- [CodeHS](#) - K-12 Computer Science Curriculum. Code HS Pro is now open and free to the end of the school year. [Virtual Learning Guide](#) available.
- [CompuScholar](#) - (offering free curriculum through the end of this school year)
- [CSTA Resources](#) - List of resources to support CS learning online
- [KhanAcademy](#) - Computer Science courses (among others)

Tools for Developing Content

- [Screencasting Apps](#) - options to create instructional videos and tutorials
- [Google Classroom](#) - How to [video](#) on using Google Classroom
- [Schoolology](#) - there are free and paid versions available.
- [Canvas](#) - District access may already be available through Infinite Campus. [Guide](#) for using Canvas. Using modules to build a course - [video tutorial](#)
- [Distance Learning Using Google Slides](#) - by Alice Keeler. If you haven't been using any distance learning before, this may help you ease into it. Keep things SIMPLE to start.
- [Zoom](#) - free video conferencing - Pro version allows you to set up 'breakout rooms' for collaboration
- [Google Meet](#) - part of Google for Education (may need to have your district turn this feature on in your Suite if you have it.

Internet/Device Access and Resources

- Cox Communications - Twitter: @CoxComm | Website: cox.com/c2c. Access to low cost internet access and setup, access to devices for students

Students With Disabilities

- [School Closures Bring Confusion](#) - article on supporting students with severe disabilities during this transition to online learning. The best thing to remember is that as a student's teacher, you know best how to support them and their families, and that communication is key through this unprecedented time. We may need to be creative and think outside of the box for the support options that we have available to us.
- [Breezy Special Ed Resources](#)
- Computer Science Resources for Students with disabilities - [Quorum Programming Language](#) for high school and AP CS Principles specifically. K-8 resources are currently in research.