



Remote Learning Guidance for Continuity of Learning

March and April saw an unprecedented shutdown of schools across the country in response to the COVID-19 virus. The shift to distance learning was swift but uneven, and the resultant digital divide poses serious questions about educational equity. As of the beginning of May, 43 states have recommended that schools close for the remainder of this academic year. And, because social distancing recommendations may still be in place when schools reopen, districts might need to develop a mixed model of remote and in-class learning.

This document presents a framework to help schools and district leaders organize their thinking around scaling remote learning environments while contending with challenges such as making up lost instructional time and navigating potential further closures based on local conditions. For forward-thinking educators, this is an opportunity to evaluate what's working and what's not.

Instructional Continuity Framework

How to increase school capacity to facilitate instructional continuity for remote learning:

Aspects of Remote Learning

Educational equity

- Technology access
- Flexible learning models
- Access to instruction help

Lexia's® research-proven programs level the playing field by providing equitable access to resources and placing teachers at the center of blended learning models. Lexia programs transition seamlessly between school and home with no disruption in student progress or teacher monitoring, and instructional resources are available to help families and caregivers support students during school closures and periods of remote learning.

Social-emotional connections

- Staff is feeling displaced
- Students need to refocus on collaboration, self-awareness, and community before assignments

Teachers can create a shared document with best practices built upon social-emotional learning (SEL) touch points such as rebuilding relationships, positive feedback, and clear expectations. Check out CASEL (<https://casel.org/>) as a resource.

Curriculum and assessment

- COVID-19 learning loss
- Need for data alternatives
- Tested, proven solution
- Need to cover new material as well as review

While other data sources may be unavailable, Lexia programs' embedded assessment tool allows students to work at their own pace and provides continual student performance data. Lexia programs are a proven solution that accelerates student learning despite the disruption of school closures. The learning path for every student is individualized, so the content presented meets each student wherever they are—above, below, or on grade level. Student data allows educators to check the progress of students working remotely and provides administrators with a measure of progress that is highly aligned with (external) standardized/ state assessments.

Professional development

- New teaching strategies to accommodate remote learning
- Improving tech integration
- Shared best practices

Lexia programs are teacher-centered in an effective blended learning model that is proven to get results and is flexible to facilitate both in-class and remote teaching. Multi-year contracts create teacher confidence, as educators know they can stay with something that works and is sustainable. Lexia Academy supports professional learning with on demand eLearning and structured courses that allow teachers to apply their learning immediately.

Progress monitoring

- Accurate placement and identification of learning gaps
- Need to accelerate learning opportunities

Lexia programs focus on skill gaps and progressing students as they demonstrate mastery. Real-time data provides teachers with anytime/anywhere actionable information to empower them to focus on individual student learning needs and determine appropriate next steps.

Trauma

- Missing school structure
- Family concerns: job, health, food
- Lost learning opportunities

Personalized learning paths provide a bridge for students to mitigate disruptions in learning. This return to routine often provides SEL benefits to students, such as confidence, reduced emotional distress, and positive social behavior.