

School Closures: Practitioner Resources for Teaching & Learning

(updated 3/25)

NGLC Community of Practitioners and Partners: We are asking for your help in sourcing and sharing high-quality, “best in class” ideas, supports, and solutions aligned to these themes:

1. [Communicating/partnering with students, parents, and families during the pandemic.](#)
2. [Supporting next gen learning in a virtual or home learning environment](#) (e.g., how to do experiential/PBL or real-world connections).
3. [Ensuring equitable learning opportunities and access.](#)
4. [Attending to SEL needs of students, staff, and families.](#)
5. [Curriculum/program delivery.](#) Free, easy-to-access platform options, support, and guidance on how to implement distance learning.
6. [Content and curriculum/instruction materials for distance learning.](#)
7. [Potpourri.](#) Great multi-purpose hubs or other resources that don’t fit neatly in the above categories.

Please add to this list with your own contributions: what you are creating, using, and learning!

Theme 1. Communicating/partnering with students, parents, and families during the pandemic.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
“A Digital-First, COVID-19 Remote Learning Plan” from BUOY consultants	https://www.buoyconsultants.com/a-digital-first-covid-19-remote-learning-plan/	5 Steps to help school leaders and stakeholders create a community-engaged remote learning plan that is flexible, collaborative, and transparent.
“Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus” (NPR)	https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-co	A kid-friendly, graphics-heavy explainer for kids, along with common-sense preventive

	mic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus?utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com	measures
"Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource" (National Association of School Psychologists and National Association of School Nurses)	https://files.constantcontact.com/733dd1fd001/4a4cc61b-bf35-4f38-b11e-f8671a8e6716.pdf	Guidelines and age-appropriate talking points for discussing COVID-19 with children
A Simple Guide to Learning at Home (Center for Collaborative Education)	https://twitter.com/GaryChapinCCE/status/1240649521690017793/photo/1	A one-page visual guide to enhance and demonstrate learning in activities that are already happening in the home

Theme 2. Supporting next gen learning in a virtual or home learning environment (e.g., how to do experiential/PBL or real-world connections)

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
PBL Works' "School Closures? Using PBL in Remote Learning"	https://www.pblworks.org/blog/school-closures-using-pbl-remote-learning?fbclid=IwAR1TN-6c1Y5EHZ3uJczYREtRZVU2AkvpODUU1sSJ60aVnFTJCEK0AcEQ-Rl	Guidance and resources to support PBL teachers to connect and engage students in remote learning that is as powerful as in their face-to-face classrooms.
"What We Learned (in 48 Hours) About Putting Together Online Project Presentations that Don't"	https://medium.com/stanford-d-school/what-we-learned-in-48-hours-about-putting-together-online-project-presentations-that-dont-124064952169	Stanford d.school retools its PBL-oriented and real-world learning classes for online delivery and learns a lot in the

Suck” (Stanford d.school)	ions-that-dont-suck-cbf13a019ba4	process that can inform K12 educators.
“Coronavirus Unit,” (Kelly Gallagher)	http://www.kellygallagher.org/instructional-materials	An extended lesson plan designed to encourage students to capture this moment in history, honoring student choice, agency, and voice, so that students create their own record of this moment in time. For 12th graders, but easily adaptable to other grade levels.
“Remember, Online Learning Isn't the Only Way to Learn Remotely” (Kate Ehrenfeld Gardoqui, <i>EducationWeek</i>)	https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/03/16/rememb-er-online-learning-isnt-the-only-way.html	A column that reminds educators that, although students may not learn all the content that we had planned for, that loss can be balanced by tremendous benefits, such as gaining essential skills and mental health benefits, via assignments that invite students to engage in regular practice, creation, or connection.
“Designing Deeper Learning for Online Distance Learning During Social Distancing” (2Revolutions)	https://getinspired.2revolutions.net/lessons/2008	A brand-new online course for educators via the InspirEd platform (register for free), offering the basics for distance learning during the COVID-19 outbreak: meaningful Deeper Learning online, inclusion, equity, and access for distance learning, as well as tech and online engagement tips.
Pop-up homeschool daily schedule generator (Transcend)	https://bit.ly/2Qwu9Ik	Use the link to create a copy to this spreadsheet, which walks parents or educators through the steps to select activities, duration, and start times to create a personalized learning schedule for use at home.

Theme 3. Ensuring equitable learning opportunities and access.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
Books That Teach Children How to Include Others	https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2017/08/books-teach-children-how-to-include-others.html	10 books for children that spark discussion, include characters your child can relate to, and tell stories about being different, being yourself, and inclusion
"COVID-19 and Students with Disabilities" (National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools)	https://www.ncsecs.org/news/covid-19-and-students-with-disabilities/	Strategies, requirements and guidance for leaders about serving students with disabilities
"Inclusion, Equity, and Access while Teaching Remotely" (Rice University Center for Teaching Excellence)	https://cte.rice.edu/blogarchive/2020/3/13/inclusion-equity-and-access-while-teaching-remotely	Building on the belief that the work of equity requires us to slow down in the midst of challenges and crises, this article shares recommendations on how we can take the most equitable approach moving forward "in community."
"Coronavirus and Racial + Social Equity: Centering Justice During Times of Uncertainty and Four Things You Can do Right Now" (The Justice Collective)	http://www.thejusticecollective.org/main-blog/2020/3/11/coronavirus-and-racial-social-equity-centering-justice-during-times-of-uncertainty-and-four-things-you-can-do-right-now?fbclid=IwAR0GcC0gtpXHZhDd4Y_Kb33o5XklCOQFsGrTTkp3lvLW1MkJekHbzNcASOQ	Article that shares recommendations on how we can all move forward in community and take the most equitable approach moving forward.

“Coronavirus: Multilingual Resources for Schools” (Colorin Colorado)	https://www.colorincolorado.org/coronavirus?utm_source=XQ%3A+Give+Me+Five+Newsletter&utm_campaign=29d6adbce0-giveme5_issue_10_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fff7d23e53-29d6adbce0-55601039	These resources include fact sheets and infographics about coronavirus that can be shared with all school staff and families, including families of English learners. In English, Spanish, and Chinese.
“Best Special Ed Apps and Websites” (Common Sense Education)	https://www.common Sense.org/education/top-picks/best-special-education-apps-and-websites?utm_source=LPI+Master+List&utm_campaign=5efefb01f7-LPIMC_COVID-19-Resources_20200319&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7e60dfa1d8-5efefb01f7-74100641&utm_source=XQ%3A+Give+Me+Five+Newsletter&utm_campaign=29d6adbce0-giveme5_issue_10_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fff7d23e53-29d6adbce0-55601039	Tools and apps that address foundational skills, boost social and emotional skills, and help kids with autism follow a schedule as well as sites that help teachers differentiate learning and access resources for developing language and math literacy.

Theme 4. Attending to SEL needs of students, staff, and families.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
“Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope With the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)	https://files.constantcontact.com/733dd1fd001/370f567b-6bc4-4ccc-b6e8-4ebf32ff9d8c.pdf	Information and guidance for parents about planning for, communicating about, and coping with the stress of the Covid-19 outbreak.

“Managing Anxiety Around COVID-19: Tips for You and Your School” (The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence)	https://www.rulerapproach.org/managing-anxiety-around-covid-19/	Ideas for managing feelings of anxiety by starting with yourself so that you are calm enough to validate, reassure, and support others.
“ASSET At-home Toolkit” (ASSET Education)	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fof7ujVOBRBKZ-u9Vvaqi6jiwV_IsNwJ/view	Five concrete stress-reducing tools for parents to practice with their children
“Principals Without a Playbook: Leadership Amid the Pandemic” (Teach for America)	https://www.teachforamerica.org/stories/principals-without-a-playbook-leadership-amid-the-pandemic	What school leaders are doing to reassure and support students and teachers, keep education going in some form during closures, while trying to process all of it themselves.
“Exercise Tips To Help Kids, Teens and Families Stay Balanced at Home” (MindShift/KQED)	https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/55533/exercise-tips-to-help-kids-teens-and-families-stay-balanced-at-home	Ideas and resources for physical activities to do at home, from young kids to teens.
“SEL Resources During COVID-19” (CASEL)	https://casel.org/covid-resources/	Resources for parents/caregivers, educators, and policymakers for attending to the social and emotional needs that arise during stressful times like these.

Theme 5. Curriculum/program delivery. Free, easy-to-access platform options, support, and guidance on how to implement distance learning.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
"Approaches to instruction during school closure," by Julie Kennedy and Charter School Growth Fund	https://stories.chartergrowthfund.org/approaches-to-instruction-during-school-closure-70e56b064d13	High-quality practices and resources that charter networks and districts are using. Includes descriptions of what schools are doing, lessons learned, and embedded links to resources they are using. Will continue to be updated.
Shared Google Folder: Plans & Guidance for Remote Learning	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/18TLZ9OdVzJZBAQilrorU0VvMJQz500Ff	Sharing of materials - available for finding materials to use & invitation to upload your own. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample student instructional materials • Remote learning planning resources • Sample student/teaching schedules • Lists of online/free instructional resources • Special education • Tech needs for remote learning
"Guide to Starting With Distance Learning" (BetterLesson)	https://info.betterlesson.com/hubfs/BetterLesson%20Guide%20to%20Getting%20Started%20with%20Distance%20Learning.pdf?hsCtaTracking=bc31ea6b-3bf3-4bc3-b9f7-953b600f9657%7C6e50d44f-536d-4144-b1e8-edf4fcae9875	A collection of tips, resources, and recommendations from our instructional coaches for facilitating effective virtual learning, including planning for equity, culture, communications, student

		engagement, and assessment
The Instructional Design Emergency Response (ID-ER) Network	https://sites.google.com/view/idernetwork/home	The Instructional Design Emergency Response (ID-ER) Network connects institutions and educators to e-learning professionals willing to help convert face-to-face courses or course components to online offerings during times of crisis, such as natural disasters and epidemics.
New Hampshire Learning Initiative (NHLI) resource hub (in partnership with Motivis)	<p>If you <i>have</i> an account with Motivis, login at https://motivis.org</p> <p>If you <i>do not have</i> an account with Motivis, click this link to register: https://motivis.org/wp-login.php?action=register Enter your email address, select a password, and use the code: NHLI</p>	A website for sharing resources and communicating guidance regarding virtual instruction to students contributed by teachers from NHLI projects. Access virtual content right away. Other functionality, such as a forum for teacher conversations, will be added soon.
"The 'Best of the Best' Resources to Support Teachers Dealing with School Closures" (Larry Ferlazzo)	https://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2020/03/17/the-best-of-the-best-resources-to-support-teachers-dealing-with-school-closures/	A curated list of links to tips, tools, tutorials, and other resources to support online learning, including converting videos into interactive learning, using zoom for collaborative group learning, and remote learning ideas for younger students.
Wink Platform (by SMALLab)	https://www.smallablearning.com/wink	A "free for the duration" learning platform providing thousands of standards-aligned activities accessible by computer or tablet. Students can launch learning activities from home, and teachers can monitor

		their work with Wink's data dashboard.
"Amazing Educational Resources" (via LIFTed Facebook Group)	http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/	A crowd-sourced and continuously updated list of companies offering free subscriptions to their platforms and/or content banks
"Helping schools start online programs," (Anthony Kim, EdElements)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/IamLIFTed/permalink/579741549285581/	5 minute video with advice for schools on how to set up online learning, support teachers and students, and make important shifts in operations/delivery.
"Resources for teaching online due to school closures" (The Edublogger)	https://www.theedublogger.com/teaching-online-school-closures/	Guide, tips, and resources culled from thousands of educators worldwide, including topics like planning for a school closure, free virtual learning tools, and options on how to structure individual lessons and daily schedules
"After 3 days of distance learning, here's what I now understand" (Michael Pershan)	http://notepad.michaelpershan.com/after-three-days-of-distance-learning-heres-what-i-now-understand/	Blogging from a teacher who is juggling the transition to online learning for his classes with 2 kids at home.
Scholastic Learn at Home Resources and Strategies	https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html	Daily reading-based activities organized by grade level—a new set released each week.
District Responses to COVID-19 School Closures: Database (CRPE)	https://www.crpe.org/content/covid-19-school-closures	Baseline database of school districts' plans for supporting students, started with 46 districts with publicly posted plans.

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Theme 6. Content and curriculum/instruction materials for distance learning.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
Do-at-home projects and activities	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uitWcOOvBTvnVGIXNtSuE-UdRfJmSpz8pge4sxS5niU/edit?usp=sharing	Ideas, resources, and links to lesson plans compiled or created by NGLC partner Elana Feinberg
Free online curriculum resources recommended by our partners	CommonLit Khan Academy Zearn Duolingo Newsela	<p><i>CommonLit</i>: free collection of fiction and nonfiction for 3rd-12th grade. Filter by lexile, grade, theme, genre, literary device, or common core standard.</p> <p><i>Khan</i>: Self-directed learning modules with text and videos in Math, Science, Computing, Arts & Humanities. See also these sample daily schedules by grade level.</p> <p><i>Zearn</i>: Four hundred hours of digital math lessons for K-5, now available for free, as well as paper-based materials that can be used without a device.</p> <p><i>Duolingo</i>: Choose from over 30 world languages to learn</p> <p><i>Newsela</i>: is offering complimentary access to standards-aligned texts through the 2019/2020 school year in ELA, Social Studies, and Science, as well as the Newsela SEL</p>

		Collection
"Resources for learning from home during COVID-19 school closures" (Thomas Fordham Institute)	https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/resources-learning-home-during-covid-19-school-closures	A round-up of the best educational videos from YouTube and television, podcasts for kids, and free instructional materials

Theme 7. Potpourri. Great multi-purpose hubs or other resources that don't fit neatly in the above categories.

Title of resource (w/name of author or sponsoring organization)	Link to resource or contact information	Brief description of what it is
Transcend's School Closure Resource Hub	https://www.transcendeducation.org/coronavirus	<p>Essential guides and resources</p> <p>Remote teaching & learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District & admin planning • Online teaching pedagogy • Selected teaching tools • Selected content resources • Student & family well-being <p>Remote work</p> <p>Info & stories from schools</p>
NewSchools' School Closure Resources	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eCKYRQAr52e0dFVXv_f30JjElzm8qROmBxQcoPQo1DY/htmlview?usp=sharing&sle=true	Tools, content, and guides from various organizations, identified by "target audience" (students by grade level bands, parents, etc.)
"Learning Resources During COVID-19" (Sunanna Chand, Teach for America)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/13p4Yl0ed_RN-cJGFw_tOY_C2JMsERQPf9w760	A round-up of links by theme, spanning topics from the nuts and bolts of online

	6lg4dA/edit	learning to fun non-screen activities with kids, to artifacts from teachers in the TFA network.
"Resources for Teaching and Learning During This Period of Social Distancing" (Paul Darvasi, KQED)	https://www.kqed.org/mindsift/55521/resources-for-teaching-and-learning-during-this-period-of-social-distancing	"This brief guide aims to help educators, administrators, and parents better navigate the pitfalls of making the quick jump to online learning. It curates useful tools and resources with a view to maintain the indispensable human touch of teaching and learning during this period of social distancing."
EdElements' Free Real-Time Supports for K-12 Leaders	https://www.edelements.com/covid19-school-districts	Free webinars, facilitated drop-in chats, and 1:1 office hours for K-12 leaders like yourself should you need it. We've organized these into those focused on leadership, teachers, operations, and virtual learning. Currently scheduled from 3/24 through 4/16.
Online Resources (Building 21)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c4ReLc7CoPiWy_PBVQpnAX-Za0Ojv9mlspdUOn1a2RI/edit	Mostly middle and high school resources, organized by subject area.