

**GATESOL**  
**Virtual Town Hall Meeting:**  
**Teaching ESOL through Distance Learning**  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**5 pm Session**

Dr. Saindon: Adult ESL has not been as prominent in Athens and Georgia at large during the past five years

This evening we will discuss:

What have been your challenges?

What has worked for you?

What can we do to encourage adult ESL teaching in the state and what do we need to do to get more funding?

Dr. Williams: Now is a time to focus on relationships with our adult ESL students. What are their needs re: food, internet connection ect.?

Conversations are very important during this time.

Kathy Ellis:

Working well: various online platforms like Zoom . Supported me and my own initiative.

Challenges: The Adult program that I was in didn't have an online program ready to go. No one can continue their language classes

GED classes weren't prepared at all

There have been technological advancements in the corporate world but in other places, for example, I don't get paid if I want to use zoom with my students in order to continue their curriculum

Nancy Maier: She and her students were using Zoom and they were also using webex

Nancy Ciudad-Simmons: Used Google Classroom for her adult ESL learners (at Gwinett Tech)

Initially they did Google Classrooms and now Zoom

She has been doing these things on her own

Her institution has sent out an email to offer online classes in the future but currently there hasn't been support for her and other instructors

Alyson Richardson: The Atlanta Institute has continued class as usually, synchronously.

Every 50 minutes, 10-minute break

Zoom has worked really well and the breakout rooms have worked really well

She has tried to slow the pace down although it is very intensive.

Dr. Chiesa: 1<sup>st</sup> question do you have any LMS (Learning Management Systems) systems (e.g. Canvas)

Demetra Williams: Uses Canvas and its great and you can add and take out assignments

Dr. Chiesa: Canvas is free for adult learners

Demetra Williams: Has a video to show students how to use Canvas

When created assignments make sure you add several options in order to submit assignments

It takes a lot of work from the front-end

It connects well with Flipgrid, Kahoot ect.

One Call, Phone Bite (sends a reminder to check email)

Teachers are the worst students, don't skip around but see what it looks like from the students' perspective

Give them an end of the week deadline

Dr. Chiesa: Teaching with Zoom is easy but I want to move beyond that, thanks!

Alyson Richardson:

Grammar/Vocab Kahoot games are great for all levels of students (even advanced students)

Demetra Williams: Adult learners live for kudos as well and that's what Kahoot provides and it's good for everyone to have fun

It's a fun way for adult learners

You can use Kahoot for literature and different and higher-level subjects.

Nancy Ciudad-Simmons: You can provide open ended questions via Poll Everywhere and similar to Kahoot.

Zoom doesn't work with a poll function unless you pay for the advanced version.

Dr. Saindon: What hasn't worked?

Kathy Ellis: Sometimes technical difficulties out of our control

Nancy Ciudad-Simmons: Lack of computer literacy skills

Demetra Williams: Have the first 30 minutes to simply go over computer literacy itself to support students to that end

Re: Breakout Rooms: Split them up in the way you want them in Zoom breakout rooms and it allows them to talk together in groups and then to come back and present and always have them come back and present so that they will have a task to work on so they can go in with a plan and come out with something to present

Continue to jump out to each room to make sure they're on task

Alyson Richardson: We do four hours of instruction, Monday-Friday for our Intensive English program (from 9 am until 12:50)

Frequent breaks and keeping it fun keeps them entertained and a break every 50 minutes is important.

Example of an asynchronous lesson:

Presenting a grammar point

Students read, we do the exercises together, then turn the camera off and work on an assignment and they can ask me if they have any questions (just like in the real classroom)

They worked alone but I was there in case they had a question

Demetra Williams: You could also do a cloze read and ask them what they got from a certain passage.

Dr. Chiesa: asynch. vs synch. =time of interaction between teacher and student

An hour of synchronous and hour asynchronous would be very beneficial

I don't know if so much screen time is healthy but make lessons due at the end of the week so people can pace themselves.

Dr. Saindon: What do we have to do in Georgia to expand adult ED?

Cherri Woods: We need to have an advocacy day at the state level where we show the state leaders:

What's the importance of it?

Make it about them so they can see the benefit of it

If we get the parents educated then it helps students become better

It makes the economy better because these people are then feeding the economy with their skills

Greg Wickersham: What more support do you need and what can GATESOL provide?

Answer: More meetings like these

Dr. Horne: GATESOL does attend the annual advocacy day in DC. We visit the legislators at that time as well. We do this at the state and national level.

Dr. Chiesa: What does GATESOL offer as support that is fundable?

Greg Wickersham: We offer our conference and series of meetings like these but funding is tight but there are small grants for GATESOL members

Jennifer Pendergrass: Regional Liaisons offer one meeting per year. They look at regional needs: What people need and what people are interested in and that's the beauty of it.

