



Continuing Learning and Instruction for K-12 Schools



Introduction

Around the world, schools and educational institutions have temporarily closed in an effort to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These nationwide closures have affected 80% of the world's student population, and localized closures have affected millions more learners and teachers.

Online learning allows K-12 schools and educators to continue learning and instruction in times of school closures, achieving a sense of normalcy and routine for children and their parents.

At a time when scenarios and circumstances are evolving daily, school leaders now find themselves making fast decisions and are closely examining the various online learning options available to quickly determine their next steps.

As teachers, principals, and administrators move forward at pace with their online learning strategy, let's look at some key considerations for K-12 educators and why Brightspace is the right learning management system (LMS) for K-12 schools.

"Public education in New York City is going to look tremendously different for the foreseeable future. But together, we will chart this path forward, and I have no doubt that we will eventually look back and say this was our finest hour: when we confronted this great challenge and overcame it, in unity, with shared strength and commitment."

Richard Carranza, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education





Organize your content and resources

Whether you're starting your online learning strategy from scratch or have experience teaching online, being able to pull together and share resources and content is going to be important in these fast-moving times.

Brightspace allows you to centralize resources in one place so students are fully supported when they begin to navigate their lesson content from home.



Ensure equal technology access for all

Online learning is an invaluable safety net, especially during extended school closure. But as educators, we need to acknowledge the importance of equal access. Not all students have access to the Internet or the latest technology devices. As some learners will have older devices or computers at home, make sure you are not over-focusing on apps that require the latest and greatest technology or operating system.

The responsive web design and offline content access in Brightspace means more learners can access materials from anywhere. Members of our educational community are also pulling together during these times of trouble, with some areas providing free devices or Internet access.



Consider the role of parents in the at-home learning equation

Parents are also navigating this new world. Many are trying to balance work (either from home or at their place of employment) with childcare responsibilities. Make sure you consider how much support parents can give to at-home learners and seek out solutions that make it as easy as possible for the entire family.

Brightspace makes it easy for teachers to centralize all materials in one place and streamline communications with parents.



Bring equality and accessibility to all learners

As you look at potential online learning platforms, consider whether they meet the needs of all learners. Not every student has the same ability or knowledge, and many require accommodations.

Brightspace helps you reach every learner. All Brightspace courses are accessible and instructors can use WCAG compliant templates to make accessible courses that can be used with assistive technologies.

We also make it easy for teachers to create differentiated instruction to support mastery through competency-based learning.



Protect your students' privacy and personal information with top-notch security

If you're asking students to use online tools, make sure their data is protected.

With an impressive track record of security leadership, D2L is the only leading learning platform company that is ISO27001- and ISO27018-certified and part of the Cloud Security Alliance. We understand that privacy is not just about keeping your data secure with encryption in transit and at rest in our cloud. We believe schools should own their data and control it. D2L is a leader in building software with privacy by design as a core principle, and we fully support GDPR, PIPEDA, and other privacy standards.



Incorporate variety into your lessons

Synchronous lessons, such as video conferences, are fantastic. However, it's important to keep in mind that some households will have only one device and that children could be sharing. Having an online lesson plan that allows for asynchronous learning, physical activity breaks, and household chore schedules is also important.

Four Big Ways Brightspace Can Help K-12 Educators

Communicate, Organize, Document, and Assess Student Learning

Communicate and Collaborate	Organize Course Materials	Document Student Learning	Perform Assessment and Deliver Feedback
Use Brightspace Announcements and Activities Feeds to:	Use the Brightspace Content and Lessons tool to learn how to:	Use Brightspace Portfolio to:	Use Brightspace Feedback and Assessments to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add attachments and links to posts • Create an assignment post in activity feed • Customize notifications for Activity Feed • Lead classroom discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get started with online learning • Add a new unit and lesson • Add new materials • Reorder units, lessons, folders and materials • Attach a release condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve portfolio items • Oversee and view individual portfolios • Help learners work with their own devices • Manage assignments • Facilitate discussions • Convert questions to quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with rubrics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an analytic rubric • Create a holistic rubric • Administer grades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter grades • Associate an activity with a grade item • Create a grade scheme • Align to standards and expectations • Conduct a quick evaluation

Additional Resources to Support Schools as They Transition to Online Learning

Here are some additional resources developed to help the Brightspace community effectively transition to online learning:

[Brightspace Community: COVID Planning Support](#)

[The Transition from Face-to-Face to Online Learning: Maintaining an Engaging Experience](#)

[Creating a Brightspace Course for the First Time](#)

[Brightspace Tutorials](#)

[D2L's Complimentary Course on COVID-19](#)

[D2L Educator Webinars](#)

Looking to adopt Brightspace to help your school continue learning and instruction during the COVID-19 crisis? Connect with us at D2L.com/K-12 or email us at K12@D2L.com to get started right away.



About D2L

D2L has more than 20 years' experience helping schools shift to fully online or blended learning. We work closely with our customers all over North America to develop tailored plans in case of prolonged closures. This includes building school districts' understanding of how to best support equitable learning continuity with an online learning platform. Brightspace provides scalable and personalized learning any time and anywhere. We have clients who are using Brightspace in their learning continuity plans on a regular basis, and this experience has built our understanding of what is necessary to make learning work outside the classroom for long periods.

To learn more or to schedule a meeting, please contact us at K12@D2L.com.