

# Best Practices for Synchronous Instruction

November 18, 2021

## **Check In -** Put your response in the chat box.

Your name, role, and school.

What is one thing you hope to get out of this webinar?



#### **Team + Materials**



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Access today's slides: **bit.ly/\_**Please remember to keep your mic on **mute** 





## Hi! We are Education Elements

WE ARE AN EDUCATION CONSULTANCY, THAT HELPS TRANSFORM SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS

\* 10 Years of Experience

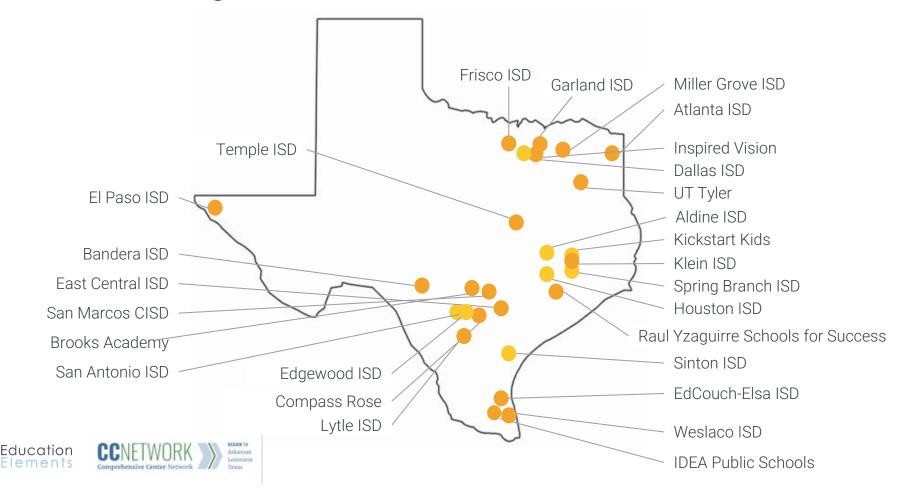
1000+
Schools
and Districts

90% of our business comes from repeat clients



of attendees find our workshops excellent or very good

## We Love Partnering in Texas!



## **Agenda**

- Check-in, Introduction + Overview
- See It: Key Considerations for Synchronous Learning
- Name It: Best Practices for Synchronous Learning
- Do It: Planning the First 20 Days of Synchronous Learning
- Check-out + Next Steps

## **Objectives**

for asynchronous virtual instruction

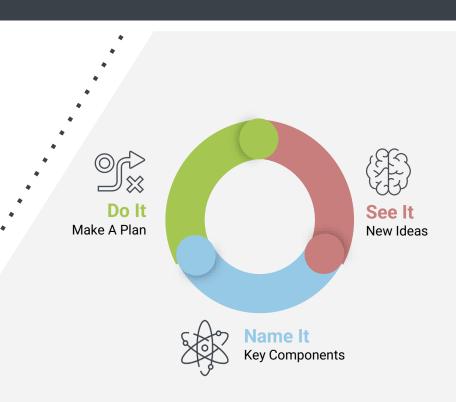
Explore tools to support high quality asynchronous instruction

Articulate various ways asynchronous instruction can look in practice



## How We'll Learn Together

- 1. See It: Understand what the practice looks and sounds like
- 2. Name It: Identify key components of the practice
- 3. Do It: Try it out and make an action plan









## Our Lens: Universal Design for Learning

#### DYSLEXIA | ENGLISH LEARNERS



**GIFTED & TALENTED | SPECIAL EDUCATION** 

- UDL allows us to think about designing solutions for a variety of learners, but special populations will still require targeted supports
- Intentionally embed high-leverage instructional strategies for ELs, SWD, and GT into creation of learning experiences
- Level of intentionality is driven by teachers' intimate knowledge of student strengths and areas of growth





# See It: Key Considerations for Synchronous Learning



## **Defining Types of Learning**

# Synchronous Learning

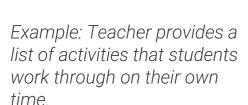


Learning that involves students engaging in learning with the teacher in real time

Example: Teacher presents material in real time over Google Meet with students who were selected for a small group or entire class.

# Asynchronous Learning

Learning that involves students engaging in learning through resources and materials provided by the teacher and completed independently.







## Synchronous Learning





Learning that involves students engaging in learning with the teacher in real time.

Example: Teacher presents material in real time over Google Meet with students who were selected for a small group or entire class.

### **Advantages:**

- Dynamic Learning
- Instructional Depth
- "Classroom" Engagement

## **Disadvantages/Considerations:**

- Technical Difficulties
- Rigid Schedule



## **Constraints of Traditional Learning**



#### TIME

When is learning happening? For how long? When will demonstration of mastery occur?



#### **SPACE**

Where is learning happening? (Physical/virtual)



#### **ROUTINES**

How is instruction happening? How are students engaging in the learning experience?



#### COMMUNICATION

How do students communicate with the teacher and one another? What does collaboration look like?

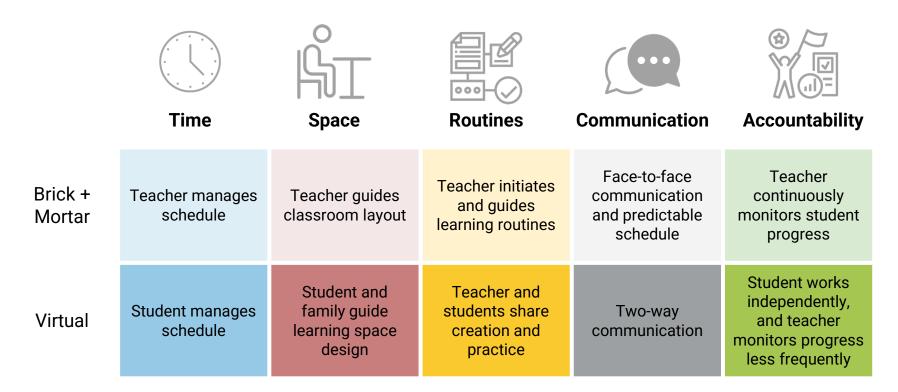


#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

What expectations are set in the learning experience? How are they met?



## Virtual environments require self-directed learning



## Let's Watch an Example

#### As you watch the video, consider:

- What strategies did the teacher use that were most effective?
- What did the teacher do to effectively address time, space, routines, communication and accountability?
- How might the teacher shift his practice to better address any of these variables?





### Let's Reflect

- What strategies did the teacher use that were most effective?
- What did the teacher do to effectively address time, space, routines, communication and accountability?
- How might the teacher shift his practice to better address any of these variables?





#### **Reflect and Share**









#### TIME

When is learning happening? For how long? When will demonstration of mastery occur?



Where is learning happening? (Physical/virtual)

#### **ROUTINES**

How is instruction happening? How are students engaging in the learning experience?

#### **COMMUNICATION**

How do students communicate with the teacher and one another? What does collaboration look like?

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What expectations are set in the learning experience?
How are they met?

In the chat: Which of the considerations is top of mind as you consider the shift to virtual learning?

## Name It: Best Practices for Synchronous Learning



## **Key Considerations**



#### TIME

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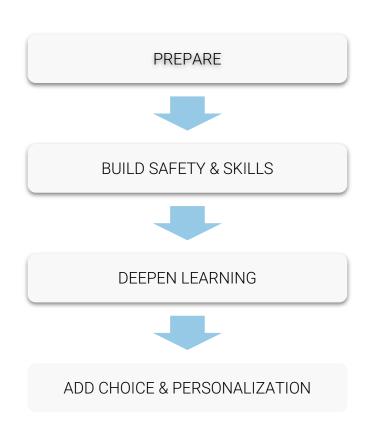


#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

What expectations are set in the learning experience?
How are they met?



## When adjusting time and space, start small + grow as you go

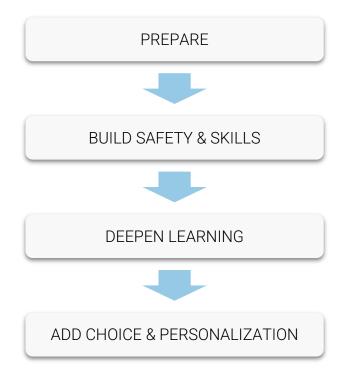


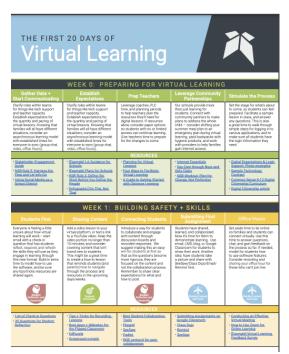
- Build in **time** to adjust to this new normal
- Set clear learning goals with support
  - Day 0 (prior to first day): \_\_\_\_
  - O Day 1: Log In
  - Day 2: Complete Digital Citizenship Class
  - Day 3: Complete Reading Assignment
- Admin: Provide time for people to adjust in small ways
- Teachers: Build confidence with the system

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  before introducing new content

## **Highlighted Resource**









## **Set Clear Expectations About Time**

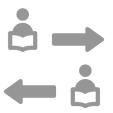


# Synchronous Learning

Learning that involves students engaging in learning with the teacher in real time.

Example: Teacher presents material in real time over Zoom with students who were selected for a small group or entire class.



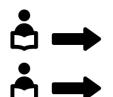


Learning that involves students engaging in learning through resources and materials provided by the teacher and completed independently.

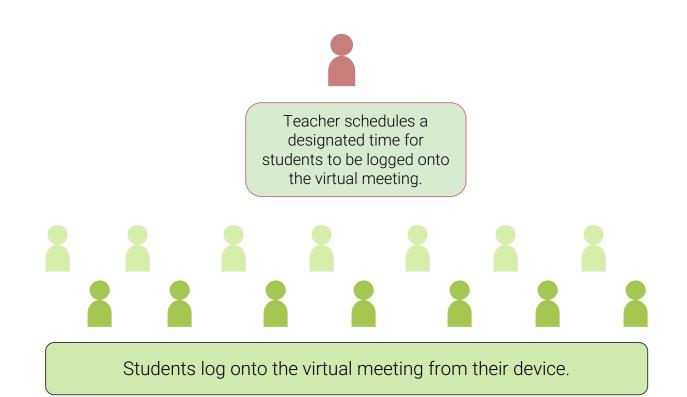
Example: Teacher provides a choice board that students work through on their own time.



## Synchronous - Single Teach Whole Group



Whole-Group Face-to-face, Common Pace

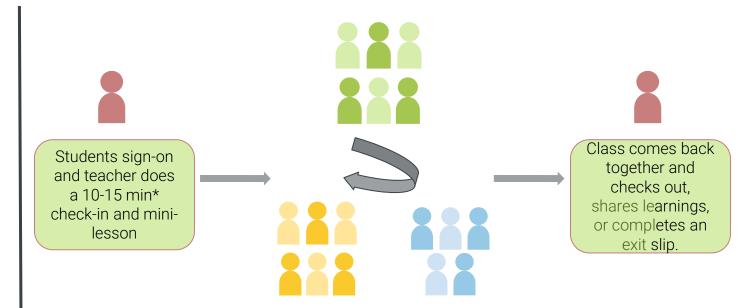




## **Rotation - Synchronous Small-Groups**



Small-Group, Small Group, Varied Pace



Students are broken into small groups\* and work on 3 separate activities. Each group rotates through all 3 activities in the designated time period - one group is with the teacher, another is collaborative, and another is independent

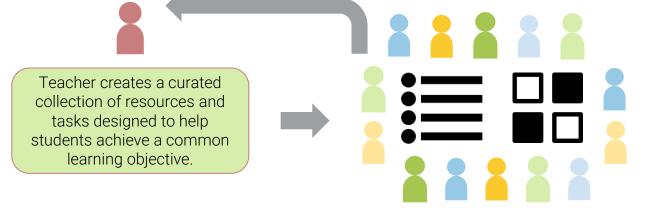


## Synchronous - Playlist or Choice Board



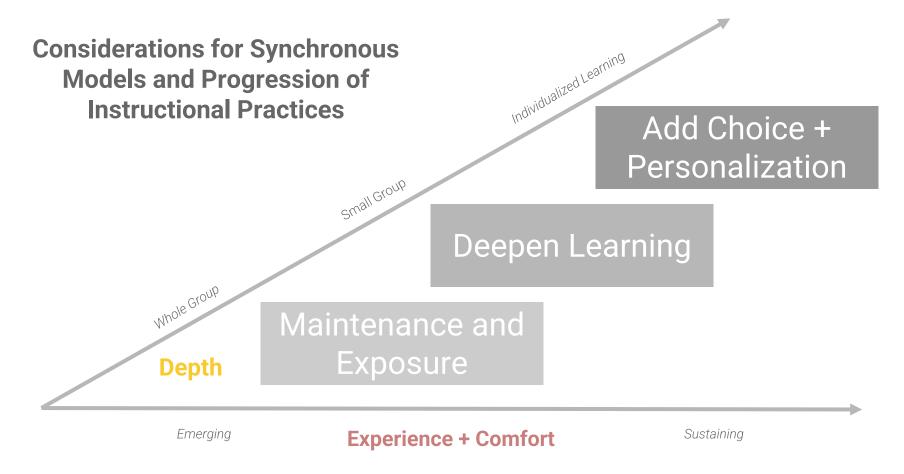
Independent
Playlist
Individual,
Varied Pace

Students have the opportunity to check in with teachers as-needed



Students complete playlists/choice boards individually (or in small groups depending on the task), at their own pace, within an established timeframe.







# What of these models is closest to virtual instruction in your own school or classroom?



## **Key Considerations**



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## When building virtual routines...

- The best practices for in-person are often also the best practices for virtual instruction
- Spend time establishing clear routines for every role involved in virtual instruction
- Be prepared to reflect and pivot often (Do not let perfect be the enemy of good!)



## Defining roles and routines might look like...

ROLE	ROUTINE		
Students	<ul> <li>Establish virtual etiquette norms (keep yourself on mute, turn video on during direct instruction, use chat feature to raise hand or pose questions)</li> <li>Submits assignments in Canvas every Friday by 3PM</li> </ul>		
Teachers	<ul> <li>Incorporates SEL activity into instruction, weekly</li> <li>Holds weekly office hours for students and parents every Wednesday at 10AM</li> <li>Uploads all lesson materials at least 1 week in advance of virtual instruction</li> </ul>		



## Be prepared to pivot...

ROLE	Challenge	Pivot
Students	"I don't have access to internet this week because I'm at my grandparents' house."  "I have three other siblings all with different class schedules, and I don't want to take over computer time when they are learning."	"Can you text me your response to a question? Or write it down on paper and snap a photo?"
Teachers	"I'm having trouble incorporating SEL into my online instruction"  "Parents have reached out to me saying they cannot fit the Office Hours into their schedules, but still have lots of questions"	"Have you tried doing a quick check-in question at the beginning of your live lessons?"  "Could you hop on the phone with individual parents for 15 minutes instead at a more convenient time?"

In short, prepare to alter your routine on a student-by-student basis. **Equity is the goal.** 

# What routines have you seen be most effective in your transition to virtual instruction?



## Key Considerations



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## Create the Space for Communication

- Join virtual session before it starts to casually connect with students
  - Just like a teacher might greet students at the door
- Convey warmth and positivity
  - Does it feel like a pre-recorded webinar? Have you smiled recently? What does your body language say to others?
- Use individual's names
  - o It is important for students/teammates to feel seen and heard
- Encourage others to share in variety of ways
  - Chat feature, take the floor and speak, screenshare, etc



#### **Communication - Establish Roles**

When there is clarity around individual and collective purpose, communication and collaboration can happen more effectively.



**Pilot/Co-Pilot** - Shares screen and ensure group stays on task and on time.



**Time Keeper** - Keep the group on track, notice time warnings and adjust the team accordingly



**Note Taker** - Document group thinking, ensure everyone has access to important resources.



**Spokesperson** - Share out summary of decisions with the whole group



#### How do we hold students accountable?

#### **Accountability Measures**

- Exit tickets short (5 questions max) check for understanding
- Check-Ins and Check-Outs empower students to set and reflect on goals
- FlipGrid (and other tech tools) use video to allow students to show vs. tell
- Virtual Polling sprinkle polls, quick CFUs throughout learning experiences
- Collective Puzzles a puzzle can't be complete without all of the pieces, so treat collaborative learning experiences as such
- Accountability Buddies together, everyone accomplishes more

#### **Additional Strategies**

- Celebrate students who are engaging and collaborating
- If a student is unreachable, leverage other stakeholders that might be able to helpful, and continue to elevate the bright spots

## Be mindful of pairing of technology and task

#### Sharing routine updates with students or staff?

Use simpler, text-based media such as email, chat, and virtual bulletin boards when pushing information in one direction — for instance, when circulating routine information and plans, sharing ideas, and collecting simple data.

#### Introducing new standard content or skills?

Video chats are richer, more interactive tools better suited to complex tasks such as problem-solving collaboration, which require your students to share different ideas and perspectives.

Attempting to resolve a conflict between students or give students critical feedback?

Avoid email or chat platforms; try to get as close as 'face to face' as you can during this time

What are other ways you have encouraged communication + accountability in the virtual classroom?



## Do It: Explore Toolkit and Share



#### Reflect and Share



**TIME**When is learning

when is learning happening? For how long? When will demonstration of mastery occur?



**SPACE** 

Where is learning happening? (Physical/virtual)



ROUTINES

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#### COMMUNICATION

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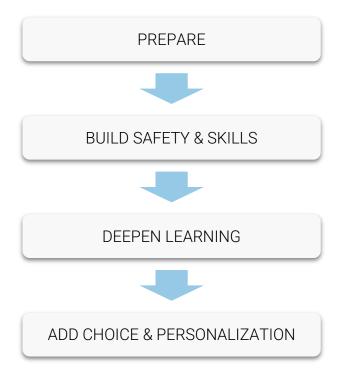


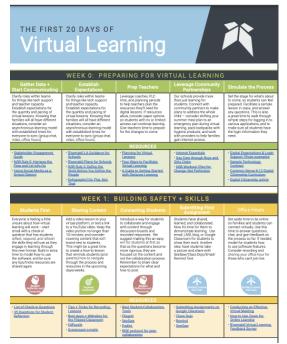
#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

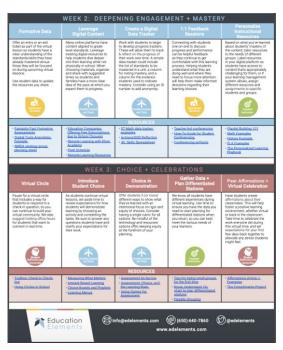
What expectations are set in the learning experience? How are they met?

What is one variable you'd like to focus on improving in your classroom or school? How would you like to have this live in your classroom or school?

## Independent Reflection - 5 minute individual exploration









## **Optional Planner**

Two Days	Two Weeks	Two Months	
Checklist	Checklist	Checklist	
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Resources to support			

#### Add to the Chat

What is one resource or idea from the guide that you would like to take back to your school or classroom?



# Closing



## **CLOSING** | Let's Check-Out!









ONE

**TWO** 

**THREE** 

**FOUR** 

And one takeaway from today's session