

## **NASET NEWS ALERT**

### **What You Need to Know about Teaching Students with Special Needs Online During School Closings**

We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact on your role working with children with special needs. We want to share information and resources that we hope you will find useful during this difficult time. We know that there are many challenges that are manifesting due to this crisis and are, or soon will, cause changes that are new for our members and their colleagues. Some of these challenges will impact how you interact with your students and their families. NASET is planning to release several NEWS ALERTS to provide much needed information and resources. Along with the vast resources available to you every day on NASET, we hope that NASET can provide much needed support during this critical period. If we can help with resources or information at this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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### **Resource Links for Teaching Online**

Since moving to online teaching is a new experience for many educators, we have provided you with sites that can help you understand and explain various options for teaching online. Thank you for being a member of the NASET community. If we can help with resources or information at this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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#### **Google Classroom** **Manage teaching and learning with Classroom**

Classroom helps students and teachers organize assignments, boost collaboration, and foster better communication.

Google worked with educators across the country to create Classroom: a streamlined, easy-to-use tool that helps teachers manage coursework. With Classroom, educators can create classes, distribute assignments, grade and send feedback, and see everything in one place.

[https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal\\_active=None](https://edu.google.com/products/classroom/?modal_active=None)

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## Resources for Teaching Online Due to School Closures

How would you feel if someone said you need to change your whole approach to teaching immediately? Imagine if, instead of interacting face to face with students in your classroom, you had to create and deliver a virtual program.

Perhaps you'd feel nervous? Overwhelmed? Excited? Unqualified? Inspired? Or perhaps plain lost.

Online learning is fast becoming a reality for hundreds of millions of students worldwide. Teachers, students, families, administrators, departments, and whole communities are being forced to respond and adapt quickly.

<https://www.theedublogger.com/teaching-online-school-closures/>

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## What Online Teachers Need to Know

The majority of us teach the way we were taught growing up (Southern Regional Education Board, 2009). This presents a challenge for online faculty, who most likely received their education in a traditional, brick and mortar school. Online instruction is much different from face-to-face instruction. Over the past nine years, I have discovered four basic elements that contribute to being an effective online teacher.

<https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/what-online-teachers-need-to-know/>

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## E-Learning Expands for Special-Needs Students

When Seph Koutsioukis was in a classroom at an elementary school in Simpsonville, S.C., he floundered. For Seph, who has autism, on-the-spot questions from teachers were a source of embarrassment. He was easily distracted by the sights and sounds in the colorful, occasionally loud room.

But for two years, 10-year-old Seph has taken online classes through the South Carolina Connections Academy, a charter school based in Columbia, S.C. He watches lessons on his home computer and talks with his teachers by phone and email.

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/08/24/01edtech-disabilities.h31.html>

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## **Distance Learning & Online Classes for Children & Teens With Special Needs**

Serious distance learning for your child with special educational needs has become a viable school alternative or supplement. Perhaps your child is having some kind of therapy that precludes participation in a standard school day program. Or you have an at risk or struggling teen who requires counseling or other treatment during school hours. Or perhaps you are homeschooling and cannot handle aspects of the curriculum yourself, and you need some teaching help.

Distance learning may offer just the right mix of structure and flexibility. You have some wonderful options for your children that were not fully available just a few years ago. Enjoy exploring them!

<https://www.iser.com/distance-learning.html>

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## **How to Be a Better Online Teacher-Advice Guide**

Whether you've taught online a lot or a little, chances are you didn't enjoy it as much as teaching in person. Maybe you didn't experience that fizz after a particularly invigorating face-to-face class. Indeed, according to a 2017 Educause survey, only 9 percent of academics prefer to teach "in a completely online environment." That means a whopping 91 percent of us don't. And I suspect that a good majority of that 91 percent would prefer to teach anywhere but online.

<https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/advice-online-teaching>

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## 15 Strategies for Online Learning When School is Closed

We very much believe in the power of physical schools as places of learning and connection. We also believe that through well-designed learning experiences, those same values—inquiry, collaboration, connection—can transcend the physical space to connect people even when we're not together physically. For physical schools that need to close for whatever reason, we at GOA can offer strategies for continuing learning that are aligned to a school's pedagogical philosophies and mission.

For online learning opportunities to be successful, teachers and leaders of schools must be aware of the pedagogy and tools that necessitate great learning for students. Does learning have to cease because students and teachers aren't gathered in person? What does great learning look like in online spaces? And, how can teachers and leaders harness the power of the internet to create great learning experiences when the school is closed?

<https://globalonlineacademy.org/insights/articles/15-strategies-for-online-learning-when-school-is-closed>

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<https://www.naset.org/index.php?id=5422>

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