MICHIGAN™ VIRTUAL

Update:
COVID-19 Response
AS OF JULY 14, 2020

Free resources for Michigan schools & educators

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This document summarizes the work *Michigan Virtual* has done to support Michigan's K-12 community at no cost as they transition to remote learning options during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

District & Educator Planning Tools

To help school leaders assess the readiness of their district for remote learning, *Michigan Virtual* created several guidance documents, including a School Closure Readiness Rubric, Planning Considerations for School Leaders, Teaching Continuity Readiness Checklist & Rubric, and Student Learning Readiness Checklist Template.

Free Professional Development for Educators

Since March 1, *Michigan Virtual* has provided nearly 100,000 online professional development enrollments (over 159,000 SCECHs) for educators seeking to improve their skills in multiple areas, including remote teaching strategies.

Free Digital Course Content

Teaching online is not simply a matter of putting lessons meant to be taught face-to-face in a digital format. There is a unique pedagogy to creating online content and *Michigan Virtual* has helped schools to ease their transition to an online format with free access to high-quality digital content from over 70 of our online courses as well as to EdReady Math & English, personalized learning programs for math (grades 4-12) and English (grades 8-12).

Statewide Expert Work Group

Michigan Virtual established the Learning Continuity Work Group comprised of two-dozen online and blended learning practitioners from around the state to develop resources for the coming academic year. The Work Group created a collection of free resources to help teachers and school administrators assess their remote teaching readiness, guide decisions about online learning platforms, and access a crowd-sourced repository of K-12 digital content that can be found on the new Keep Michigan Learning website.

Online Community for Educators

We created the Keep Michigan Learning Facebook group as an active community where educators can share resources and best practices in online and blended learning activities. There are currently over 3,700 active members.

Virtual Office Hours for Educators

Educators supporting students through distance learning now have the opportunity to participate in free sessions in which they can ask questions and seek expert advice from veteran online teachers and instructional designers.

Webinar Series

With help from guest experts, *Michigan Virtual* has created a series of 14 short on-demand webinars (approx. 30 minutes each) that offer tips, tricks, and best practices for remote teaching and learning as well as discussions on policy and whole-school planning.

Mental Health & Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

We have launched the Michigan Cares program to provide over 500 free mental health and SEL lessons for families with support from the state, a series of free online courses for educators created in partnership with MDE, and a blog series on parenting during a pandemic.

Design-Thinking Research

Michigan Virtual and SundbergFerar, an internationally recognized, Michigan-based design firm conducted a qualitative research project focused on capturing authentic stories and experiences from administrators, teachers, parents, and students to influence actionable plans moving forward to make the future of education, whether face-to-face, blended, or virtual more impactful for students.

Web Accessibility & Supporting Students with Disabilities

One of the biggest barriers to online education for students with disabilities is the lack of web accessibility. To meet this need, *Michigan Virtual* has compiled a list of resources that provide guidance on these topics.