DISTANCE LEARNING BEST PRACTICES FOR EDUCATORS





COLLABORATION

- You are not alone.
- Connect and collaborate with colleagues.
- Search out resources on Twitter and in Facebook Groups.
- It is likely that someone else has already created a resource you need. You do not need to reinvent the wheel.



CONNECTION

- Check-in regularly with students. Consider having weekly virtual office hours that students can drop-in a video conference or talk to you on the phone.
- Make an extra effort to reach out to your most vulnerable students.
- When an emergency happens on an airplane and the oxygen masks drop, you are asked to "Secure your own mask before helping others." Take care of yourself and your family needs first, and you will be better equipped to care for the needs of your students.



COMMUNICATION

- Choose one main platform (Google Classroom, Schoology, etc.) for the dissemination of lessons, assignments, and the turning in of assignments. This works best if implemented school-wide.
- Students and parents should know how to best contact the teacher and the school with questions and concerns



CONSISTENCY

- Students need to know what is expected of them during the time of distance learning.
 Provide revised course expectations that cover the digital citizenship of distance learning, such as video session best practices.
- It is best to have a schedule or routine for the week. For example:
 - Monday Introduce Content
 - Tuesday Assign Activity
 - Wednesday & Thursday Support and Feedback
 - Friday Assignment due, teacher planning
- LESS IS MORE.



COMPASSION

- Be flexible with deadlines and expectations.
- Since some students may not have access to a device or WiFi, be prepared to offer alternatives to any technology-dependent assignments.
- If offering a live video session with students, consider recording for all students to access later, if allowed by district guidelines.
- Give yourself the grace to find what works best for you and your students. You got this!