

Distance Learning Hot Topics Series

Leveraging Family Engagement to Foster Student Success in Distance & Blended Learning



Session 1

Establishing a Foundation for Distance Learning & Family Engagement



Establishing a Foundation for Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- **Distance Learning** is instruction where the student and the teacher are not in the same immediate location.
 - Often times, technology is used to bridge the gap between time and space.
- **Asynchronous Learning** involves students learning at their own pace through assignments and activities provided by the teacher.
 - This may include the use of videos, audio materials, pre-recorded lessons, classwork or homework assignments.
- **Synchronous Learning** often involves some form of on-line teaching and learning through the use of a video conferencing system.
 - This may include video or audio instruction in which the primary mode of communication between the pupil and certified employee is online interaction, instructional television, video, telecourses, or other instruction that relies on computer or communications technology.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Support the family in exploring how to manage the home environment to support distance learning
2. Reach out to each family to ensure clear communication between home and school during distance learning
3. Assist the family to prioritize self-care for all during distance learning



Create your Distance Learning space at home:

- Talk with your child about what kind of space helps them to learn.
- Choose a learning space based on your child's learning preferences and needs. Make it comfortable... but not too comfortable.
- Identify a place to store unnecessary tech and toys to eliminate distractions during learning.
- Create your daily schedule with your child. Include time for learning, breaks, and play. Stagger as necessary to support multiple children learning at home.
- Make sure all learning supplies are accessible.
- Encourage your child to personalize their learning space to fit their own style.

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<p>What do you already KNOW about this topic?</p>	
<p>What do you still WONDER about this topic?</p>	
<p>What new information or strategies did you LEARN?</p>	
<p>What will you DO to apply what you have learned?</p>	



[7 Tips for Setting Up a Productive Learning Space at Home](#)

[CDE Distance Learning Instruction Planning Guidance](#)

[CDE Curriculum & Instruction Distance Learning website](#)

[Distance Learning Playbook for Parents](#)

[Distance Learning Templates for Teachers and Families](#)

[Parents Tips and Tricks for Distance Learning](#)

[SBCSS Parent Summit Keynote Presentation, Laurel Kirchhoff](#)

[SBCSS Parent Summit Workshop Presentation, Laurel Kirchhoff](#)

[SBCSS Distance Learning Resource Hub](#)

[Supporting Families with PBIS at Home](#)

[Today's One Thing for Families: Remote Family Engagement](#)

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Session 2

Addressing Equity in Distance Learning & Family Engagement



Addressing Equity in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

“In these difficult times, we cannot lose track of the needs of our most disadvantaged students. Districts will need to solve a variety of concerns about access. In considering the development and implementation of a distance learning plan for schools, schools will consider existing resources and systemic processes to ensure equitable access and opportunity for all students.”

California Department of Education

School is not a one size fits all system. As we re-design the school model for distance learning, it is imperative that have transparent and courageous conversations about inequities that become barriers to student success.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Provide necessary resources to families to ensure all students’ basic needs are met during distance learning
2. Assess students’ educational resources and materials to guarantee access and opportunity for all students to engage in instruction during distance learning
3. Implement responsive and restorative practices during distance learning to address inequities



Address the possible equity barriers in Distance

Learning:

- Determine any unmet basic needs. Communicate any areas of support to the school.
- Survey your child's technology resources and needs. Communicate any needs to the school.
- Talk to your child about their needs and wants and how this can positively impact their learning. Determine any opportunities to connect their interests with their instruction.
- Talk to the teacher to address any implicit bias that might be affecting your child's access or engagement in learning. Try to presume positive intentions.

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[3 Key Equity Considerations for Distance Learning](#)

[7 Ways to Make Distance Learning More Equitable](#)

[10 High Leverage Equity Practices](#)

[10 Questions Equity Advocates Ask About Distance Learning](#)

[Engaging Parents and Students from Diverse Populations In the Context of Distance Learning](#)

[Equity Considerations in Distance Learning](#)

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Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 3

Developing Positive Mindsets for Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Developing Positive Mindsets for Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

Growth mindsets, which are a way of thinking about a particular circumstance, have the power to inspire different goals and shape views about effort.

A Growth Mindset is a way of engaging with the world around you. Although we often focus on the benefits of this mindset for students, it is equally as important for families to model this perspective as a means to help ease families through the transitions of distance learning.

All students need a safe space to try, and sometimes even fail, and the support of their families and teachers to see, talk, and listen to them on their distance learning journey.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Teach, model, and reinforce positive social interactions between the teacher-student-family triad to foster students' resiliency skills during distance learning
2. Support families in recognizing their student's unique learning styles and how that can guide students in developing their own self-regulation skills during distance learning
3. Encourage student perseverance skills helping families to identify the appropriate level of challenge and support needed during distance learning



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LINKS & RESOURCES

[Distance Learning Playbook for Parents](#)

[Growth Mindset Resources for Parents and Teachers](#)

[How to Get Kids Into a Learning Mindset at Home](#)

[Mindsets and Behaviors for K-12 Student Success](#)

[The Importance of Growth Mindset in Distance Learning](#)

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Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 4

Fostering Well-being in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Fostering Well-being in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- The value of social emotional learning is increasing in schools. It is more important than ever to support children in distance learning to improve their emotional intelligence and social skills.
- Even during distance learning, schools and families must work together to support the development of the whole child- academically, behaviorally, and social emotionally.
- The ability to develop a sense of belonging in the virtual school community is key to the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of all during distance learning.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Create a foundation for social-emotional learning that fosters a sense of belonging, connection, safety and respect for adults and students
2. Attend to well-being and mutual support among families so that students feel the value, support, and strength as an outcome during distance learning
3. Elicit opportunities to invite families to join students and participate in social and emotional learning activities



Address Your Family's Well-Being in Distance Learning:

- **Emotionally / Socially:**

- watch a good movie, write a letter to a loved one, spend quality time together

- **Mentally / Spiritually:**

- read a book, volunteer, spend time in nature, make a vision board, write a journal

- **Physically:**

- go for a walk, ride a bike, play a game, go swimming, have a dance party

- **Practically:**

- declutter a space, organize a to do list, plant a garden, design a family plan

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LINKS & RESOURCES

[CASEL CARES SEL Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#)

[CASEL Playbook: 3 SEL Signature Practices](#)

[Engaging Families in Distance Learning: Supporting from Afar](#)

[Parents Tips and Tricks for Distance Learning](#)

[Wellbeing and Connection During Distance Learning](#)

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Leveraging Family Engagement to Foster Student Success in Distance & Blended Learning



Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 5

Prioritizing Core Instructional Values in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Prioritizing Core Instruction in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- Ensuring all students continue to make academic progress is a priority in distance learning. This is a monumental undertaking that requires teachers and families to work together in priority areas to support learning goals.
- In distance learning, it is clear that we cannot teach everything in the same manner it was taught in the classroom. Determining priorities in distance learning helps both students and parents to focus their distance learning efforts.
- Mitigating the potential learning loss during school closures requires teachers and parents to work together to strategically identify opportunities to leverage the most impactful areas of instruction to ensure student learning continues.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Support student's reading skills by encouraging families to find opportunities to pair their child's interests with their reading tasks
2. Support student's writing skills by giving parents resources and models to support the writing process
3. Support student's math skills by sharing strategies to explore math in the real world.



Develop Opportunities to Extend the Priorities of Distance Learning:

- Help your child to identify practice activities they enjoy
- Identify books and resources that connect to your child's interests
- Identify a time and space for practice that is free from distractions and competing activities
- Engage in extended learning opportunities together as a family
- Identify goals and rewards to motivate participation in practice activities
- Talk openly to older children about the impact of engaging in extended practice opportunities

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LINKS & RESOURCES

[California Common Core English Language Arts](#)

[California Common Core Math](#)

[CCEE Distance Learning Consortium Resources](#)

[CCEE Distance Learning Consortium / SBCSS Professional Development](#)

[Canvas Courses](#)

[Distance Learning Playbook for Parents](#)

[Footsteps2Brilliance / SBCSS Early Literacy Platform](#)

[KVCR PBS / SBCSS Instructional Programming Lesson Plans](#)

[San Bernardino County Interactive Cradle to Career Roadmap](#)

[San Bernardino County Vision2Read Initiative](#)

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Leveraging Family Engagement to Foster Student Success in Distance & Blended Learning



Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 6

Supporting Early Learners in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Supporting Early Learners in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- Since the beginning of the distance learning transition, supporting the success of early learners in the preschool and early elementary years was identified as a priority.
- Supporting our youngest students in distance learning is about empowering families and caregivers with confidence and skills to provide engaging and developmentally appropriate early learning experiences
- Early learners have unique needs in distance learning as they often lack the independence and proficiency to engage in distance learning without the support of their families or caregivers.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Inspire active exploration by connecting with families to determine what resources and activities are accessible to support distance learning time
2. Foster creative play time to support families in creating opportunities to develop foundational social and emotional, executive functioning, and early academic skills during distance learning
3. Develop authentic engagement to design distance learning time that resembles developmental play



Identify key strategies to support participation for Early Learners in Distance Learning:

- Determine short durations of time for students to focus on learning
- Identify the most essential tasks that require screen time
- Talk to children to turn play time into learning time
- Allow children to learn and play at their own pace
- Keep learning time fun and light!

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[7 Tips for Managing Distance Learning in Preschool](#)

[Books to Support Families with At-Home Learning](#)

[Building Social and Emotional Skills at Home](#)

[Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children](#)

[Empowering Families for Distance Learning in Early Childhood](#)

[Policy Update Remote Learning in Early Childhood](#)

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Leveraging Family Engagement to Foster Student Success in Distance & Blended Learning



Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 7

Engaging Adolescents in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Engaging Adolescents in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- Empowering is about ownership and agency. Providing opportunities for voice and choice in learning experiences in how we create learning experiences that empowers learners.
- Encouraging a gradual release of responsibility and successful independence prepares students for future real world experiences.
- Adolescence is an important period for cognitive and social-emotional development. Teens will develop the ability to problem and explore their interests as they are given opportunities to take their own steps towards independence.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Identify the teacher's role for families so they can anticipate the level of learning and independence that is expected during distance learning
2. Engage the parent's role to support students and be involved in their distance learning while also allowing for student autonomy
3. Empower the student's role by working with families to develop an approach to distance learning that adds value and pride in who students are as a learner



Empower adolescent student agency in Distance Learning:

- Talk openly to your student about the value of everyone's role in distance learning:
 - Teacher and parent support
 - Your expectations
 - Their needs
 - Their responsibilities
 - Their plan
 - Their goals

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LINKS & RESOURCES

[5 Virtual Learning Tips for High School Students](#)

[7 Tips for Effective Remote Learning](#)

[8 Tips to Help You Succeed in Virtual High School](#)

[8 Tips for Middle and High School Students to Get Started in On-Line Learning](#)

Distance Learning Hot Topics Series

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Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 8

Implementing Best Practices in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Family Engagement in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- Family engagement is the process used to build genuine relationships with families. Relationships with families support overall family well-being and children's healthy development. When families are engaged, partnerships are created that have a common focus—helping children grow and thrive.
- As we strive to develop family partnerships in distance learning, this first begins with recognizing that family engagement is more than family involvement. It is a genuine and authentic partnership with families with a common focus on supporting students so everyone is growing and thriving in their learning and development
- Family engagement is one of the single most important factors in helping students succeed in school. Parents, families, and other caring adults provide the primary educational environment for children early in life and can reinforce classroom learning throughout the school years.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Strengthen relationships with families to develop an authentic and open teacher-student-family triad during distance learning
2. Build capacity with families as an extension of the classroom community and your greatest resource during distance learning
3. Support families to focus on learning and offer guidance in new distance learning experiences



Engage the family as a partner in Distance Learning:

- Identify distance learning practices to support priority areas of family engagement: effectiveness, equity, and cultural responsiveness
- Leverage Back to School Night and Open House virtual events to provide essential information to families
- Make a plan to schedule at least one individual check in appointment with families
- Identify school and community organizations that can provide responsive support to families
- Attend school events where families will be present and engaged
- Explore ways to encourage and recognize positive family efforts and experiences

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LINKS & RESOURCES

[CDE Guidance: Family Engagement Framework](#)

[CA Dept of Ed Guidance: Family Engagement Toolkit](#)

[California Community Engagement Initiative Theory of Action](#)

[Engaging Families in Distance Learning](#)

[Engaging Families to Support Distance Learning During School Closures](#)

[SBCSS Parent Summit Homepage](#)

[SBCSS Parent Summit Keynote Presentation, Dr. Yvette Harris](#)

[SBCSS Parent Summit Workshop Presentation, Dr. Yvette Harris](#) [Tips for Engaging Families in Distance Learning](#)

[US Dept of Ed Guidance: Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships](#)

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Hot Topics Series Resource Handout

Session 9

Exploring Exemplars in Distance Learning & Family Engagement

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Exploring Exemplars in Distance Learning



Big Ideas for Distance Learning

- Effective student and family engagement relies on establishing trusting relationships in which educators, students, and their parents see themselves and each other as equal partners. Without opportunities to interact in person, it is now more difficult and also more important to build and maintain these strong relationships.
- The California Community Engagement Initiative gives us an opportunity to look at exemplar family engagement practices from across the state explore opportunities to extend those practices into the distance learning environment.
- Instructional Rounds is a protocol that allows us to explore best practices for replicability to another school or classroom context . This protocol can occur either in person or through an online virtual format.



Family Engagement Strategies

1. Observe best practices for family engagement from a variety of school and home settings
2. Discuss family engagement practices that fit the context of the family and school community
3. Strategize actions to develop and implement family engagement practices that connect to high quality distance learning



Exploring Models of Family Engagement to Leverage Distance Learning:

- Develop an integrated Distance Learning Program with your Family Engagement Plan
- Identify essential strategies to engage families in Distance Learning
- Leverage Back to School Night and Open House virtual events to provide essential information to families
- Make a plan to schedule at least one individual check in appointment with families
- Identify school and community organizations that can provide responsive support to families
- Attend school events where families will be present and engaged
- Explore ways to encourage and recognize positive family efforts and experiences

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[California Community Engagement Initiative](#)
[Community Engagement Initiative](#)
[Making the Most of Instructional Rounds](#)
[SBCSS Community Engagement Initiative](#)