Learning Landscapes

Developed and Presented by Morgan R. Nixon, Out of Eden Learn Research Assistant,
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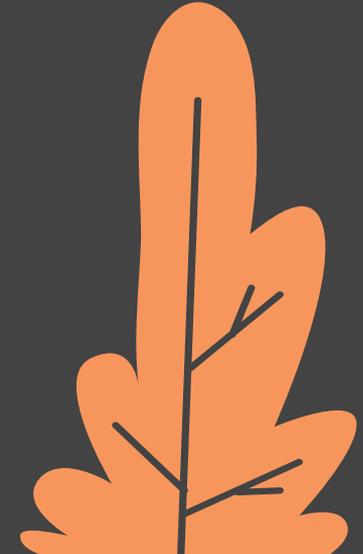
What can we learn?

By critically examining current events related to the global shift to online learning, we can learn about:

-educators and learners who are **currently being served**

-educators and learners who could **be better served**

-educators and learners who are **being left out** of online learner experiences

Online Learning Landscape (4/2-4/9)

How are current educators and learners **interacting within online learning spaces** since the global shift to online education?
What are **potential ways to support learners and educators** in these spaces?

WEEKLY "WINDING" WORDS

BASIC NEEDS

SPECIAL NEEDS

FLEXIBILITY

VOICE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FLEXIBILITY

- Reconsider models for remote learning
- Offer flexible schedules for students and teachers
- Remote learning does not mean simply transferring face-to-face instruction to online
- Lakota Schools is model for proactive implementation of remote learning

Caught in Limbo, Aspiring Educators Ask for Flexibility (NEA Today)
- PD for future teachers halted
- Students unable to complete national assessments
- Solution: advocates like NEA are urging state departments to be flexible with aspiring educators

Flexibility Key to Successful Remote Learning (ISTE)
- A guide on how Lakota Local Schools have approached remote learning
- Teachers distribute assignments Monday morning and recommend a schedule of completion over multiple days
- Educators advised to stick to 2 hours in each content area
- Students provided with sample schedules including checkpoints for teachers to touch base
- Focus is on learning outcomes and making learning accessible

How to Do Formative Assessment in Distance Learning (Edutopia)
- Know your purpose
- Collect data over time
- Focus on feedback
- Check for understanding in synchronous sessions
- Leverage personal conversations
- Check in on SEL
- Make it useful

FLEXIBILITY

EDSURGE

When to Teach Online Classes Live and When to Let Students Learn on Demand
By Jeffrey R. Young

EDSURGE

EARLY LEARNING

To Engage Young Kids in Remote Learning, Start Simple
Apr 9 · Stephen Noonoo

EDSURGE

CORONAVIRUS

How Will Students Take AP Tests During the Pandemic? At Home, With an Open Book.
Apr 3 · Rebecca Koenig

ISTE

LEARNING DURING COVID-19

April 6, 2020

Flexibility key to successful remote learning

Adjusting expectations has been a theme of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's Lakota Local Schools, a suburban K-12 district with more than 16,700 students, designed its remote learning guide with that concept in mind.

TAGS: Online learning, COVID-19

MORE

NEA TODAY

APRIL 2, 2020   EDUCATION POLICY

Caught in Limbo, Aspiring Educators Ask for Flexibility

MARY ELLEN FLANNERY

BASIC NEEDS, 1

- Students, teachers and parents should be considered in the system of well-being
- How can teachers make informed choices if they are experiencing burnout?
- Keep assignments and remote work simple to avoid unnecessary challenges

Lessons in Leadership: Administrators' Advice for Addressing 5 Coronavirus Challenges (Education Dive)

- Consider needs such as transportation, food, etc.
- Equity and Access
  - Inequity exists in technology and access to internet, especially in rural contexts
  - High demand for mobile hotspots, but inadequate supply
  - Residential internet access necessary for all students, not just during the pandemic
- Professional Development is Critical
  - Remain cognizant of teachers' varying levels of PD
  - Ease into PD with plenty of communication between all stakeholders
  - Consider 2 meeting times for teacher teams with flexible attendance options
- Students are missing milestones, an aspect to consider when addressing their needs and concerns

Innovative Schools Find Lessons--and Opportunities -- in Remote Learning (EdSurge)

- Looking after children and staff wellbeing is the priority
- E.g. Millennium School in San Francisco: students engage in daily mindfulness practices
- Acknowledge that students have different home experiences which deepen learning gaps
- Online Learning Limitations
  - How will students receive this instruction over the long-term?
  - What does character building look like online?
  - Petri-dish of schooling shows how non-cognitive variable affect academic success
- Online Learning Opportunities
  - Less disruption than in the classroom
  - Renewed focus on family context and well-being
  - Some states adopting a coaching versus assessment based teaching approach
  - Schools able to set a new standard for enriched and relevant learning

BASIC NEEDS, 2

- Educators' emotions matter
- Educators' emotions have always mattered, yet the current crisis has magnified their workload
- Educators should openly communicate their needs during this time

Teachers are anxious and overwhelmed. They need SEL now more than ever (EdSurge)
- Survey of 5,000 teachers about their emotional lives during COVID-19 revealed they were: anxious, fearful, worried, overwhelmed and sad
- A comparable 2017 survey revealed similar results
- Overall, teacher burnout and stress already existed
- Research suggests that teachers with more developed emotion skills report less burn out and greater job satisfaction
- Emotional skills include: recognizing emotions accurately, understanding causes and consequences, labeling them precisely, expressing them comfortably and regulating them effectively
- We can support educators' well-being and be sensitive to their feelings
- Teachers need:
    - Time to adjust to the new normal of online learning
    - Ways to make virtual learning fun and engaging
    - Need for honesty, respect, kindness, flexibility and patience from admin
    - Ways to support their students' wellness and resilience
- Put emotional needs in writing in order for teachers to express what they need (living document with the members of the school)

California Coronavirus Response: Manage Stress for Health (California COVID-19 Playbook)
- California has proactively taken the lead in addressing well-being during the COVID-19 crisis
- Six strategies for managing health for both adults and children
    - Maintain supportive relationships
    - Exercise
    - Sleep
    - Ensure you are getting proper nutrition
    - Get mental health support
    - Practice mindfulness

BASIC NEEDS

EDSURGE

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
Teachers Are Anxious and Overwhelmed. They Need SEL Now More Than Ever.
Apr 7 · Christina Cipriano

EDSURGE

REMOTE INSTRUCTION
Innovative Schools Find Lessons — and Opportunities — in Remote Learning
Apr 6 · Gaia Ines Fasso

EDUTOPIA

TEACHER WELLNESS
Teaching Through a Pandemic: A Mindset for This Moment
Hundreds of teachers, many of them operating in countries where teach-from-home has been in place for weeks, weigh in on the mental approach you need to stay grounded in this difficult time.
Stephen Merrill

USA TODAY

'You're laid off. Sorry.' Students lost jobs when colleges closed
Thousands of students worked on college campuses that shuttered because of coronavirus. They're out of work, but still need the money.
EDUCATION 4:50 p.m. ET Apr. 8

WASHINGTON POST

For schools, a new challenge: How to feed students during spring break?
Arlington Public Schools in Virginia ran out of food when it tried to give families extra supplies ahead of break.

Hannah Natanson

ISTE

LEARNING DURING COVID-19   April 7, 2020
Meeting students' social-emotional needs during a COVID-19 lockdown
For the 1.5 billion learners in more than 160 countries who are affected by school closures, feelings of anxiety and depression can get in the way of quality online learning even in the most tech-ready school districts.
TAGS: Online learning, social-emotional learning
MORE

VOICE

- Families being directly affected by decisions should have the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Community ambassadors and trusted individuals should be active in advocating during town meetings
- Online forums are places for educators to share ideas, vent, and voice concerns

School Boards Navigate Open Meeting Laws During Closures (Education Dive)
- Issues
  - Allow participants to comment in real time during virtual meetings to give the public a chance to share their opinions
  - Enable parents to speak and give context to the issues
  - Do more outreach to communities of color; offer interpretation services as needed
  - Now is not the time to make policy decisions about the future of public education if only some parents have the opportunity to attend and weigh in
- Solutions
  - "Trusted ambassadors" within the community to raise awareness in meetings
  - Hybrid models: Governments required to provide at least one location for members to watch meetings, include written comments in the public record, provide Zoom access to satellite locations, district leaders should enable telephone access when using video platforms, enforce time limits on comments

NEA Member Connections Help Sustain Educators During Crisis (NEA Today)
- Facebook groups created by NEA members and affiliates
- NEA's Facebook group: NEA Educators Navigating COVID-19 together
- The California Teachers Association Facebook Group: CTA Teaching, Learning and Life During COVID-19
- Virtual COVID-19 Response Workshops hosted by NEA
- Facebook live events and other social media campaigns to share messages of hope
- Opportunity to share resources and vent about various challenges

VOICE

EDUTOPIA

TEACHER WELLNESS

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Hundreds of teachers, many of them operating in countries where teach-from-home has been in place for weeks, weigh in on the mental approach you need to stay grounded in this difficult time.

Stephen Merrill

NEA TODAY

APRIL 6, 2020   **EDUCATION POLICY**

NEA Member Connections Help Sustain Educators During Crisis

CINDY LONG

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Schools and families need flexible options for students with special needs
- Civil rights for students with special needs should not be waived
- Teachers can participate in interventions themselves to focus on providing education for students with special needs

<u>**Flexibility and Collaboration, Not Waivers, Will Make Remote Learning More Equitable (EdSurge)**</u>

- Provisions under these 3 laws are an issue
  - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - Rehabilitation Act of 1973
  - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Questions about whether to provide equitable education to children with disabilities are halting efforts to offer any education at all
  - Argument 1: It is not possible to meet laws protecting students with disabilities in their entirety, putting district and federal leaders at risk of litigation
  - Argument 2: Remote learning for students with special needs is possible; waivers will simply eliminate incentives for districts to offer adequate provision
- Flexibility and collaboration is required between school districts and families to map out appropriate plans for remote learning
- Civil rights laws do not need to be broadly waived--there is a path forward
- Teachers can turn to successful interventions from the special education community itself
- "Focus should be on the relentless push for innovation that truly enables all children to access the learning they need to succeed."

SPECIAL NEEDS

EDUCATION DIVE

Would IDEA waivers benefit districts during school closures?

Some argue the term "waiver" is misplaced and that flexibility around timelines and budgets would allow districts to continue educating all students without fear of legal repercussions.

By Naaz Modan • April 03, 2020

NY TIMES

April 2, 2020

DeVos Weighs Waivers for Special Education. Parents Are Worried.

The $2 trillion coronavirus law could give the education secretary the power to waive special education rules as school districts struggle to teach all their students online.

By ERICA L. GREEN

HUFF POST

How Children With Disabilities Are Getting Left Behind

Schools are struggling to educate 7 million students who receive special education services in the absence of physical classrooms.

By Rebecca Klein

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Student-teachers missing out on key face-to-face learning practice
- Virtual learning could be a good opportunity for student-teachers
- Requirements for student-teachers being reconsidered but more guidance needed
- There are opportunities for innovation

Coronavirus school closures push out student teachers. Will US teacher shortage get worse? (USA Today)

- Education needs student-teachers amid school closures
- Education officials working to ensure they can join full-time teachers this fall
- Some student-teachers get certified with less experience, some have had no experience in the classroom
- Advantage: student-teachers getting experience in distance learning
- Some states not providing guidance on student-teachers, leaving the decisions up to individual institutions to determine training

Education Dive: Darling Hammond: Covid-19 brings 'central importance of public education back to people's minds' (Education Dive)

- There are so many innovations, yet they have a "popcorn effect," they come up here and there and only reach certain individuals
  - Staying on course with innovations and embedding them into systems is key
- Scaling Up is an issue in America
- Strengthen preparation for teachers

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

USA TODAY

Coronavirus school closures push out student teachers

Coronavirus closed schools just as student teachers were set to finish their in-classroom training. Will they be able to apply for teaching jobs?

EDUCATION Apr. 6, 2020

EDUCATION DIVE

Q&A

Darling-Hammond: COVID-19 brings 'central importance of public education back to people's minds'

The policymaker and Stanford scholar discusses distance learning, how the economic downturn might impact teaching shortages, and lessons learned from studying other countries.

By Linda Jacobson • April 06, 2020

NEXT WEEK'S PROJECTIONS

DIFFERENT MODELS OF REMOTE LEARNING

ONLINE SECURITY

STUDENT & TEACHER EXPECTATIONS ONLINE