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Innovation in Education: Resources for Online Teaching and Learning During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Disruptions in education caused by the sudden shift to online instruction at all grade levels in response to the coronavirus pandemic have underscored the need for proven high-quality, affordable resources to support online teaching and learning. Teachers are challenged to quickly adopt innovative approaches to delivering online lessons, using virtual assessment tools and engaging in countless other activities related to managing their classrooms. The rapid pace of this shift to a new learning environment requires adaptability, flexibility and a willingness to embrace education technology to be successful.

The past two decades have seen an explosion of teaching and learning resources promising innovative solutions to the litany of problems facing teachers of all grade levels. Many of these resources are digital with internet-based and gaming approaches being among the more popular options. While a limited number are free, many require resources beyond the reach of many districts with limited resources.

“Online learning opportunities and the use of open educational resources and other technologies can increase educational productivity by accelerating the rate of learning; reducing costs associated with instructional materials or program delivery; and better utilizing teacher time.”

- U.S. Dept. of Education, ed.gov

We discovered a bright spot in the current landscape in our survey of accessible, evidence-based resources available to support those who are new to distance teaching and learning. Check out these no cost resources rated at Level 1 found on [Ohio's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse](#):

- [ASSISTments](#): Middle school math instructional support that provides students with timely feedback and teachers with valuable assessment data – all for no fee. A special COVID help center is also available to assist with smoothly transitioning to online instruction.
- [DreamBox Learning](#): Elementary school teachers may access free tools from this Level 1 rated resource to support teaching math to their students. DreamBox Learning is an adaptive, online math program designed to complement classroom instruction.

The Ohio Department of Education's [Reset and Restart page](#) has detailed guidance and resources for schools navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. There are countless other resources available that are open source – meaning they are available free of charge. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's), such as [Udacity](#), [Kahn Academy](#) and [iTunes u](#), offer extensive learning opportunities and are available free for teachers and students. [Edutopia](#), [TheEduBlogger.com](#), [the National Council of Teachers of English](#), and many other organizations committed to supporting educators with professional development and instructional resources are offering free resources to support teachers, students, parents and others who are impacted by school closures during the coronavirus crisis. Our OERC team will continue efforts to support Ohio's education community with evidence-based research and data driven decision tools as we navigate the coronavirus response and recovery together.

*The Ohio Education Research Center partnered with The Ohio Department of Education to develop Ohio's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse to support Ohio school districts in their effort to sift through the overwhelming number of options. This resource provides a carefully curated guide directing educators to proven strategies and programs created to address a range of challenges – from curriculum development to community engagement. Visit the [Clearinghouse](#) to learn more about innovative evidence-based strategies for improving teaching and learning in both traditional and digital learning environments. **Coming Soon** – collaborative resources for Building Up the Evidence Base – Level 4 Strategies for Ohio.*

Views expressed in this blog are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Ohio State University, the John Glenn College of Public Affairs or the Ohio Department of Education.