

How to support students in the transition to online learning

- 1.** In times of high-stress or crisis--such as those faced today with COVID-19--we cannot throw work at students and expect the same degree of attention or mastery. Especially for K-12 students, consistency is key. A regular morning greeting followed by check-ins to outline assignments at regular intervals will help ensure that students stay motivated and accountable for managing their workloads.
- 2.** Students need instructor and peer-to-peer contact. Hold 1:1 sessions to talk with every student at least once every couple of days. Consider more group assignments to foster social connection and support.
- 3.** Consider alleviating pressure for students by relaxing deadlines and grades. Be more lenient or flexible on due dates. Switch to pass/fail assessment, accepting “good enough” in the circumstances versus pushing for perfection.
- 4.** Ask yourself whether your assessment is designed to measure understanding or help students learn what their knowledge gaps are. If you can separate those out, you reduce complication and academic stress. All that is expected of teachers is to lay a solid foundation for students to return to in the fall.
- 5.** If remote instruction continues, build in time to assess your current approach to evaluation. You may see an opportunity to improve your methodology to better support students.

Tips summarized from a discussion with Professor Martin Schedlbauer from [Northeastern University's Khoury College](#). Professor Schedlbauer has been practicing remote instruction since 1999. In light of COVID-19, he is offering his first-hand insight to educators at all levels who are grappling with how to effectively engage with their students from a distance. To review Professor Schedlbauer's advice, please visit [this link](#).

[Watch the video](#) on YouTube.