



Effective Best Practices in Digital Learning

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Knowledge is Opportunity

Digital Learning

Cognia is a global nonprofit that has the knowledge to help digital schools improve outcomes for all learners.



Share our knowledge of digital schools and the best practices that make them effective!



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Digital Learning | *Equitable Access*

- I. Equitable access to technology and Learning Management System (LMS). Do students have access to appropriate technology in digital learning including hardware and software.
- II. Onboarding and professional development for leaders, faculty and staff, students, and community as they transition from in-person to digital environment.

First Steps | getting ready for digital learning

1. Provide equitable access to appropriate technology (hardware and software) and a Learning Management System (LMS or platform)
2. Develop and Implement an onboarding process and professional development for leaders, faculty, staff, students, and parents/guardians.
3. Establish the Curriculum and Instruction model for your institution

Why ? | What? | How?

Why ? Digital learning provides for us the flexibility of learning anyplace, anytime, and at any pace!

What ? Digital learning best practices allow for us to translate from in-person instruction to the digital environment.

How ? Digital learning best practices provide the infrastructure and steps for implementation of effective online learning.

Infrastructure | *Technology*

- I. Digital citizenship | *Defined support for internet etiquette (netiquette) and the onboarding processes and procedures. Defined policies, consequences, and synchronous support for cyberbullying.*
 - Cyberbullying: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/what-is-it>
- II. Technology support | *Defined process for IT support through end-user guides, help desk ticket procedures, password security, and platform assistance.*
- III. Technology infrastructure | *Defined security measures for systems back-up, outage plans, student records storage, data privacy measures, and data centers monitoring.*

Infrastructure | *Instruction*

- I. Communication | *Defined and verified process of static or dynamic communication and interaction between students and teachers.*
- II. Interactions | *Defined as Student to Content through instructional design, Student to Student through collaboration, Students to Teacher through small groups and tutoring, and Teacher to Teacher through modelling and co-teaching.*
- III. Expectations | *Defined requirements for communication, grading, feedback, office hours, availability, and response time to students.*

Infrastructure | *Student Engagement*

- I. Ownership | *Defined process for allowing student voice and choice in their academic goals and learning experiences that align to their needs through rigor and relevance.*
- II. Accountability | *Defined student progress through course benchmarks or deadlines, virtual synchronous and asynchronous attendance, and consistent interactions.*
- III. Positive Relationships | *Defined learning experiences and interactions that foster and support collaboration, higher order thinking skills, and a digital learning community.*

We know digital schools because
we are in digital schools

We review your Learning Management System



Why ? | What? | How?

Why ? Reviewing the LMS is an integral part of being able to “observe” the digital learning environment.

What? When reviewing the LMS focus on Technology, Instruction, and Student Engagement.

How ? Spend focused time with faculty/staff exploring and analyzing curriculum, technology, assessments, and student engagement. Allow the staff to walk you through the LMS from their perspective. This is a reflective practice and part of continuous improvement process.

LMS | *Technology*

I. Digital citizenship

- *What does the onboarding process look like for learners and staff?*
- *What communication strategies are used to teach student expectations for academic integrity?*

II. Technology support

- *What is the distribution process for IT support tickets that are received?*

III. Technology infrastructure

- *How is the LMS reliability monitored and measured?*
- *How does the LMS integrate with other platforms?*

LMS | *Instruction*

I. Communication

- *How often do learners communicate with teachers/mentors?*
- *What does communication between learners teachers/mentors?*

II. Interactions

- *What type of higher-order thinking strategies are applied in the digital classrooms?*
- *How do learners receive instruction, through discussion-based assignments or mostly text-based instruction?*

III. Expectations

- *What strategies are used to encourage academic success when a student does not make adequate progress?*

LMS | *Student Engagement*

I. Ownership

- *Does each student have at least an informal personalized learning plan that is unique to them?*
- *Do students use digital tools to conduct research, solve problems, and/or create original works for learning?*

II. Accountability

- *Where does the student receive quality individualized feedback to support student learning?*

III. Positive Relationships

- *What opportunities do students have for collaboration?*
- *What methods does the teacher utilize to encourage and build community with students in the digital classroom?*

What's next?

Suggestions for getting ready for digital learning!



Next Steps | getting ready for digital learning

1. Provide equitable access to appropriate technology (hardware and software) and a Learning Management System (LMS or platform)
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3. Establish the Curriculum and Instruction model for your institution

Next Steps | digital learning in motion

1. Assess technology (hardware and software) and Learning Management System (LMS or platform) to see if it meets the needs of your community.
2. Evaluate the onboarding process and professional development for leaders, faculty, staff, students, and parents/guardians ensuring capacity for additional enrollments.
3. Continue the curriculum revision process and evaluate instruction model to incorporate best practices to support your education community.

“ When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts.”

Dalai Lama



A woman with long dark hair is looking down at a tablet computer she is holding. The background is a library with bookshelves. Overlaid on the image are several semi-transparent business charts, including a bar chart, a world map with a line graph, and a pie chart. The overall color scheme is warm and sepia-toned.

**Thank you and
Connect with us!**

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