

In order to provide continuous core instruction, modifications to routines and procedures are necessary for school systems and leaders, teachers, and parents. It is important that educators take into account the best practices of teaching in a virtual setting as these plans are created.

Recommended Readings

[Best Practices: Online Pedagogy](#): General advice, a variety of course types, and additional tips on student engagement.

[The Shift to Online Teaching](#): Compiled practices and strategies from higher education institutions that can translate into the K-12 classroom.

Synchronous Learning (in real-time)	Asynchronous Learning (at different times)
<p>Description: Synchronous learning is any activity in an online course that happens in real-time, like a Zoom meeting or a chat. It requires all participants to be in the same online environment, actively participating at the same time.</p>	<p>Description: Asynchronous learning in an online course consists of activities that students can generally complete on their own schedule within the given timeline for the task.</p>
<p>Advantages: Provides the opportunity for asking and answering questions in real-time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides the opportunity for spontaneous interaction and exchange ● Provides the opportunity for teachers to give feedback on student learning. ● Builds the classroom community. ● Increases in the number of social interactions 	<p>Advantages: Students can complete work within a time frame set forth by the teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students have the opportunity to take the necessary time to digest and repeat/reread the content. ● Students have time to compose and revise responses increasing access to those with language and other barriers.
<p>Considerations: Synchronous learning can widen the divide for learners with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● certain disabilities ● unstable Internet access ● inequitable access to a device and other equipment ● caregiving responsibilities ● no access to a suitable space to participate 	<p>Considerations: Without proper motivation, it is possible for students to put off completing weekly work and fall behind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students can feel isolated or disconnected from the instructor and other students ● A strong accountability and feedback system must be in place.
<p>When to Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To interact with and between students ● To check-in with students to clarify information ● For focused activities and group presentations ● For office hours 	<p>When to Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When recording lecture/podcast (20 minutes max) ● For readings ● For video demonstrations/ worked problems ● For quizzes, assignments, application, analytical group work
<p>Length of Time: The ideal length of a virtual meeting session is 30-40 minutes for grades PreK-5, no more than 3 times a day, and 45-60 minutes for grades 6-12, no more than 3 times a day.</p>	<p>Length of Time: Students can complete work within a timeframe set forth by the teacher.</p>