

A Call to Action: Academic Continuity Planning

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Introductions

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Big Idea

- H1N1 Virus Planning - Academic/Learning Continuity in the face of student and staff absences and/or school dismissals
- Most districts are not thinking about online learning as a solution . . .
- Using examples and models from online learning can provide a short-term solution and a long-term framework for options related to the continuity of learning for (flu) school dismissals.
- Planning for online learning to be used day-to-day – provides a “win-win”
 - readiness for learning continuity during a crisis/emergency

Case Study: Singapore

- SARS outbreak in 2005, academic continuity
- e-learning as a key strategy for learning continuity.
- long-term e-learning plan:
 - train every teacher to teach online
 - provide online learning in 100% of secondary schools
 - all instructional materials are provided digitally and online
 - every teacher and secondary school uses a learning management system to deliver course materials and track student progress.
- e-Learning week

Learning Continuity Chart: Sample

STATUS	GREEN (no/limited student infection)	YELLOW (significant student infection)	ORANGE – (significant student and staff infection)	RED – School/Campus Closures
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons and exams as normal • Leave of Absence (LOA) Students to access materials from e-learning system (such as a Learning Management System/LMS) if available or in alternative/hard copy formats, if not • Isolate leave of absence (LOA) students for exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures, tutorials and laboratory sessions continue as normal • Home Quarantine Order (HQO) students to access materials from e-learning system if available, or, school provides instructional materials and assignments in alternative/hard copy formats, if not connected • Isolate sick students for exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop mass lectures and activities; replace by e-learning, if possible • Tutorial via online tutors • Laboratory sessions as normal, if possible; via online labs, if possible • HQO students to access materials from e-learning system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-learning only via remote access for students from various locations, including homes • Tutorial via online tutors • Hold exams on e-learning systems, if possible; otherwise postpone exams

Call to Action

- *What can the online community provide to assist US states, districts, schools and individual students displaced H1N1?*
- Short and Long -Term frameworks to help schools adopt e-learning for learning continuity
 - preparing people
 - availability of instructional materials
 - accessing the technology tools and platforms
 - partnerships

People: Examples

- **Teachers**
 - Inventory access at home in the event school is inaccessible
 - Train teachers in use of the distance learning tools (low tech and high tech) for short-term and long-term solutions.
- **Training parents and students**
 - Inventory access at home in the case of a school dismissal.
 - Train students and parents to access materials and services (low tech and high tech)
 - Schools use blended environment under normal circumstances to ensure a smooth transition in the case of an emergency.
- **Identify and train gap-fill tutors for online tutoring**

Instructional Materials: Examples

- What instructional materials are available?
 - Textbooks only – (offsite licenses??);
 - Syllabus and materials available via packets or over the Internet;
 - Full online courses and schools and more in-depth approaches to continuity of learning and interaction available.
- Accelerate organization and access to proprietary and open educational resources (digital, sharable, re-usable, adaptable, creative commons licensing)
- Invest in digital content and instructional materials that could be delivered at a distance and used in online learning.

Technologies: Examples

- **Phone conferencing:**
 - Provide conference-calling solutions;
- **Web-conferencing solutions:**
 - Provide synchronous class meeting solutions.
- **Learning Management System solutions:**
 - Provide blended learning throughout the year;
 - Provide synchronous and asynchronous class meetings with teachers and students including live chats with other students.
 - Allow students and parents to track class using syllabus, completed assignments, grades and assignments interact and have discussions with teachers view their.
- **Online Courses**
- **Virtual Schools**

Readiness Assessment

- Learning Continuity Readiness - Schools, districts and states could benefit from doing proactive readiness assessments for e-learning e.g.
 - Knowing what the student and teacher population have at home: e.g. controlled email account, computer and internet access.
 - A plan/ policy for expanding access in the short- and long- term.

Readiness Assessment

- Learning Continuity Readiness
- Schools, districts and states could benefit by doing a readiness assessment for e-learning in advance and knowing what the student population has in inventory at home: computer and internet access at a minimum.
- If they don't have access, then the formulation of a plan or policy for expanding access in the short- and long- term as well as interim strategies in place.

Open Issues

- **Policy**

- If online classes are offered to quarantined students, how is the online school to be reimbursed, and how will the credits be transferred?
- Which level of government will be responsible for monitoring and administering such a program for quarantined students?
- How would responsibilities be divided between the federal government and the US Department of Education, state governments and departments of education, local governments and school districts?
- What union issues will need to be accounted for?

Next Steps

- Future Meetings
- Website of Resources
- Webinar