Continuity of Learning: Supplemental Virtual Learning Resources for Supervisory Unions/Districts

Purpose

This document outlines free resources organized by topic/content area to assist supervisory unions and districts (SU/SDs), schools and families in supplementing existing online learning supports such as the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) to meet the virtual learning needs of all students.

Introduction

In April 2020, the Agency of Education (AOE) partnered with VTVLC to expand existing online and blended learning supports for Vermont SU/SDs and schools. As the school year progresses, SU/SDs have experienced increased demand for virtual learning options for their students.

The AOE has compiled the following resources for subject areas with the highest demand for online learning to support SU/SDs. When implementing an SU/SD's Continuity of Learning plan, these resources can be used to supplement academic curriculum for students learning in virtual or remote environments; support a pivot-ready stance if the school or SU/SD need to fully transition to remote learning; or support extended instructional time outside core subjects for students who require additional support, as outlined in Act 173.

Resources

The free resources listed below include both self-paced lessons and units as well as resources that can be used for virtual lesson planning. These resources will still need general educator and special educator monitoring and oversight as they are predominantly meant for asynchronous learning. For students receiving additional academic services (IEP, 504, EST, etc.), many of the resources have accessibility and scaffolding features built in. Lessons and learning activities listed in these resources have been created to deliver standards-aligned content, and, depending on the type of resource, can be used as standalone courses or as supplements to in-class predetermined curriculum.

All Content Areas

- WeTeachNYC is a library of lesson plans, professional learning activities, videos of best practices, and more. Some resources may require a NYCDOE or partner log in.
- VermontPBS has compiled weekly thematic bundles by content-area and grade level, with specific episodes of high-quality digital programming.

Contact Information:

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- [National Geographic](#) has a resource library that offers high-quality, standards-based educational resources and activities.
- [Khan Academy](#) offers both standalone resources and full online courses for a variety of different content areas, including Math (PreK-12), Science (9-12), Computing (9-12), Arts and Humanities (9-12), Social and Emotional Learning, and ELA (PreK-9).

Specific Social Studies Resources

- [OERProject](#) offers two distinct courses, the Big History Project (BHP) and the World History Project (WHP). BHP provides foundational skills and concepts for middle-and high-school students. WHP develops essential skills and concepts that prepare students for AP courses or can serve as the AP course.
- [The Center for Civic Education](#) offers two free, self-paced courses: *We the People* and *Strengthening Democracy in America*, for high school students. Each course should take around six weeks at 6-8 hours per week.
- [The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#) is providing free resources and guidance for remote learning, including study guides for AP US History, online exhibitions, lesson plans and free access to the Hamilton Education Program Online.

Specific Math Resources

- [Master Math](#) has self-paced virtual courses for 6th – 8th grade Math and Alg. 1. The courses have video tutorials as well as practice problems and online assessments.
- [Math Planet](#) has self-paced virtual courses for pre-Alg., Alg. 1, Alg. 2, Geometry. However, the site does not provide practice problems or assessments.
- [Engage NY](#) provides curriculum for PreK – HS and includes printable assessments.
- [VCTM](#) has created a collection of resources including Tech Tools and also No Tech options to assist educators with remote learning.
  - [Georgia Virtual Learning – Shared Content](#) has performance tasks that can be searched by course and concept. The state of Georgia has adopted the Georgia Standards of Excellence, they are very closely related to the CCSS and also provide the alignment to CCSS following each GA standard.

Specific World Language Resources

- [Duolingo for Schools](#) offers a blended learning companion for teacher's classrooms offering more than 30 world languages. Duolingo lessons give each student personalized feedback and practice, preparing them to get the most out of classroom instruction.
- [Memrise](#) is a language learning app that offers 22 world languages. Courses can be designed to the individual needs, schedules of the learner and focus on conversational language spoken by native speakers.

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- StudySpanish.com provides free tutorials on topics such as pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. The site makes extensive use of audio clips and written examples that can be emailed.
- Learn a Language is a website that promotes the learning of language through hundreds of free language-learning lessons, games and activities. Through this site you can also access free courses for several world languages, including Spanish, French and Chinese.

Specific Science Resources

- The National Science Digital Library provides online educational resources with current emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math. Resources are searchable by subject, education level, and standard.
- OpenSciEd provides high-quality, free, NGSS-aligned science instructional materials for grades 6-8. Developers are adapting these materials for virtual, remote learning environments.
- HowToSmile is a collection of educational materials curated by a group of science museums, including the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Exploratorium, the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Children's Museum of Houston and the New York Hall of Science. Resources are designed for students in non-classroom settings and are searchable by age, learning time and any material costs associated with the activity.

Specific Social-Emotional Learning and Skill Development Resources

- The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) understands how important it is to attend to the social and emotional needs that arise during times like these and offers free resources designed to support educators, parents and anyone who works with children.
- SEL Providers Council is committed to providing free resources and curriculum to support e-learning efforts across the country, this site provides links to many different providers' individual pages where their SEL curriculum is located.
- The Sanford Harmony Online Learning Portal provides PreK-6th grade teachers with materials and resources to incorporate their social-emotional learning program into the classroom, including training, lessons, activities, videos, stories, games and songs.
- ActivityLearn provides texts and videos for ELA, Science and Social Studies with scaffolds and higher-order questions.
- Epic! is an e-library that is great for supporting reluctant or struggling readers. It provides access to more than 20,000 high-quality children's books and educational videos and includes an assortment of both fiction and nonfiction books from prominent publishers.

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Conclusion

Whether SU/SDs and/or schools utilize self-paced courses or standalone standards-based activities, educator oversight and monitoring should be in place. Districts may want to revisit their Continuity of Learning plans and include these resources as viable, virtual learning tools to provide online learning opportunities for their students.

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