Scaling Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative to Support Continuity of Learning

Purpose

The Vermont Agency of Education will be scaling its existing relationship with Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC) to provide an optional virtual learning management system (LMS) to support SUs/SDs, Career Technical (CTE) and Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) centers as they shift to remote education statewide. This is targeted to serve secondary students beginning at grade 6 for the remainder of the school year. This option will be at no cost to districts, schools or providers.

This online system will provide access to curated and standards-based curriculum, instruction, and delivery mechanisms. The platform will allow SUs/SDs, CTE centers and AEL providers to leverage their personnel to rapidly meet the range of student needs and ensure continuity of learning for Vermont learners as communities navigate the coming months.

In the coming days we will provide additional details on accessing the platform, training, and supports as we work with VTVLC. What follows below is an overview of the benefits of this resource as we respond to the evolving nature of COVID-19.

Why VTVLC?: Meeting the Four Pillars of Continuity of Learning

Leveraging existing state and local investment in VTVLC to scale instructional capacity rapidly

- Currently VTVLC is a trusted state partner who has served over 14,000 students and currently has partnership agreements with 25 schools and provides individual student/course support to multiple non-partner schools
- VTVLC's platform content and structure allow for students to be reassigned to a different section of the same class with minimal disruption in the event of educator illness or community spread.
- VTVLC uses only Vermont licensed educators who have received online teaching certificate
  - There are currently licensed online educators at partner schools and directly supported by VTVLC. These educators could become teacher mentors who could support 50-60 teachers within a regional design to scale online educators outside of the online certification process
- VTVLC provides, and will be able to rapidly deploy, professional learning to educators
- Professional learning could be pushed to educators to support remote/virtual workspaces and scale capacity

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:

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- VTVLC will be able to provide courses in the Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies and Health/PE
- VTVLC's high-quality, standards-based curriculum and instruction can assist district and school leaders in alleviating some of the load on their educators as they take on additional responsibilities as a result of COVID-19
- VTVLC can currently support Flexible Pathways such as Dual Enrollment (DE), CTE, Work-Based Learning, and the High School Completion Program (HSCP)
- VTVLC provides access to Dual Enrollment and AP Courses on behalf of schools and individualized to families/students
- There are already existing guidelines for the provision of FAPE in the VTVLC infrastructure
- VTVLC is uniquely poised to cross K-12, CTE and AEL contexts and to support a regional approach
- VTVLC has customized programming (PASS) for students engaged in, or who require, independent studies/projects
- VTVLC is a primary provider of education content for Home Study families

Scale LMS and existing SIS architecture used by VTVLC to ensure communication, accessibility, and student safety

- IT/Ed Tech Coordinators from around the state could be leveraged at the local level as a first step in supporting online learning infrastructure and technical components; these first line colleagues would be supported by existing VTVLC Coordinators and the AOE who could identify statewide issues and solutions
- VTVLC uses Canvas LMS which is known and trusted LMS that is highly compatible with other platforms
- The Vermont State Colleges use Canvas so there is natural continuity and enormous potential in bridging the secondary and post-secondary divide that would support future Career Pathways work, pathways to post-secondary, and better leverage our secondary/post-secondary educators in interstitial spaces (e.g., dual/concurrent enrollment offered on secondary campuses, AEL, etc.)
- The existing LMS would allow for pushing of content statewide and rapid response to changing community configurations as COVID-19 progresses. This would allow for leveraging instructors from around the state, as well as necessary infrastructure support like IT/Ed Tech Coordinators
- VTVLC's platform provides a guarantee to deliver four Core content areas and Health grades 6-12, CTE, WBL, DE, and AP
- There are three Canvas apps (Student, Parent and Teacher versions) that would allow for different access points for students who may or may not have internet at home:
  - Access your Canvas courses on the go and in the classroom with the Canvas Student mobile app! From any device, students can now:
    - View grades and course content
    - Submit assignments
    - Keep track of course work with to do list and calendar

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- Send and receive messages
- Post to discussions
- Watch videos
- Take quizzes
- Receive push notifications for new grades and course updates, etc.
- This platform includes the Zoom communication tool that can support max webinar access (3000/at a time) and 100 licensed users to support synchronous learning
- Local districts would not have to change their SIS – VTVLC has established a system for reporting student information in its nearly eleven years of operation. VTVLC has their own unique SIS that allows for a hierarchy of views into student information that crosses LEAs and regions while maintaining student confidentiality and can roll up for state level view.

In order to ensure that we are prepared to respond rapidly to the needs of education stakeholders, we will be proceeding with state-level efforts to roster students to ensure this support is there when districts and providers need it. In the coming days we will provide additional details and a timeline for when this will be available. In the interim, if you are interested or have questions, please contact us.