



Virtual Workshops: Flexible Learning



Overview

What is flexible learning? The term usually describes an instructional model that adapts to meet student needs - whether in use of time, space, or content. As school districts respond to the coronavirus pandemic, we must now apply flexible learning to fluidly transition between in-person, distance learning, or hybrid models. This new flexible learning is a huge learning curve for educators, as well as an opportunity to reimagine instruction to truly meet students where they are.

In Virtual Workshops, educators will explore how to provide equitable and student-centered instruction in distance learning modalities, whether that is a part or all of their instruction. Participants will learn new concepts and strategies, create concrete plans, and gain insight and ideas from peers.

Who are Virtual Workshops for?

Virtual Workshops are designed to support K-12 teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators. We recommend that educators also receive ongoing supports such as 1:1 coaching or implementation planning.

Virtual Workshops are not webinars. They are highly interactive, with opportunities for discussion and to create a plan with manageable next steps. We model what we teach - so teachers and coaches experience the kind of engaging distance learning they will create with their students.

How Does it Work?

Virtual Workshops are designed to adapt to districts' and schools' needs:

- **Time:** Each workshop meets for two hours, via video conference. Participants can attend one or a series of workshops.
- **Coaches:** Each workshop is facilitated by a BetterLesson coach - highly-effective, experienced educators with training in student-centered instruction, distance learning, and adult pedagogy.
- **Lab:** Participants receive access to the BetterLesson Lab: an online platform where they can search thousands of high-quality blended and distance learning lesson plans, instructional strategies, and videos.



BetterLesson

We partner with education organizations to reimagine professional learning, build teacher and leader capacity, and improve outcomes for all students.

"This Distance Learning PD has been a breakthrough of knowledge for me. I feel very equipped with resources to empower students, families, and staff."

District Instructional Leader, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Teacher and Leader Outcomes

Essential Skills

Distance learning is a huge shift that can take many years to master. Virtual Workshops build foundational understanding so that educators can increasingly build skills in student-centered distance learning. They will make big shifts in:



Mindset: Educators believe that distance learning can be meaningful and based in student ownership.



Equity: Educators can design distance learning so that all students get the support and access they need.



Organization: Educators create consistent distance learning organization systems that students can easily grasp.



Data-Driven Instruction: Educators know how to collect data about students' experiences and make changes to improve over time.

"The BetterLesson facilitators were excellent. They modeled how to build community and make the lesson interactive and participatory, even through the digital platform."

English teacher

Cumberland County Schools, NC

Sample Virtual Workshops

FOR TEACHERS

Social-Emotional Learning: Building Relationships

Family Partnerships: Working Alongside Caregivers to Deepen Learning

Culturally-Responsive Teaching: Moving from Awareness to Action

Equity and Access: Ensuring All Students Meet their Potential

Flexible Assessment: Designing Authentic Assessments to Check Progress

Meaningful Tasks: Designing Engaging Learning Experiences

Diverse Student Populations: Supporting English Learners and Students with Disabilities

Stop the Slide: Using Data to Address Academic Gaps

FOR COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

We offer Virtual Workshops for leaders on many of the above topics, as well as:

Strategic Planning: Goals and Objectives of an Instructional Plan

Setting Up Flexible PD: Shared Professional Learning

Trauma-Informed Practices for Leaders: Taking a Positive Approach

[View Full Catalog of Topics](#)