



Tips for Communicating with Parents During Virtual Learning

Effective Communication

Communication with families should always be welcoming and authentic. It needs to be kind, honest, and sincere with a hospitable focus. The purpose of these conversations is to listen to families and learn how districts/schools can be most supportive and form collaborative partnerships with parents or guardians. It can also assist in developing an inclusive and culturally responsive plan of support that fits the needs of your student population.

Gather Input

While families have many needs, they also have a lot of wisdom to share about how to support their children academically, socially, and emotionally. They are the experts on their children and what their children may need right now. Utilizing the communication methods below, ask families what the best way is to collect and share information with them. Make sure there is a system in place to document the feedback and updates to share with school and district teams to help determine best practices and next steps.

Do not Make Assumptions

Some families may not be responsive and that is okay. Just like you, families are doing the best they can to navigate their dual roles as parents and teachers, among juggling other life challenges. Be mindful that everything will not be perfect.

Communication Methods

Use more than one method of communication to display resources and share information. Be mindful of your audience and ensure the content is accessible in multiple languages & [508 compliant](#).

Sample list to include, but not limited to the use of:

- Research-based and culturally responsive curriculum materials
- Parent Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Home Visits





Georgia Department of Education Division for Special Education Services and Supports



- District and/or school point of contact
- Local resources (i.e. faith-based organization bulletin, school marquee, community center)
- Websites
- Social Media
- Flyers
- Media – television and newspaper announcements
- Email and/or phone call blasts
- Newsletters
- Family engagement staff and/or parent leaders (i.e. parent mentors, PTA/PTO, stakeholder teams)
- Word of Mouth (empower and encourage students to communicate their needs to parents)

Establish Feedback Loops

Close the feedback loop with families. When families offer feedback or suggestions, let them know how the district or school plans to incorporate the information or change in practices as a result of their participation.

Resources

The following list are links to resources and professional development for educators.

- [American Institutes of Research](#)
- [Assistive Technology](#)
- [Georgia Department of Education Digital Learning](#)
- [Georgia Virtual Learning](#)
- [Georgia Home Classroom](#)
- [Parent Mentor Partnership](#)
- [Parent Teacher Association](#)
- [The Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) Federal Resources for Stakeholders: Continuity of Learning During COVID-19](#)
- [Why Inclusive Leadership Matters?](#)

