Sensible Assessment Practices Webinar Series: Building Community Resources

This document provides an annotated list of resources included in the Sensible Assessment Practices Webinar Series: Building Community. Foundational resources are categorized first, followed by resources referenced in the webinar, in addition to other relevant ancillary materials related to webinar topics.

Foundational Resources:

- **Sensible Assessment Practices** - This document offers guidance to educators on how they can “assess” their incoming students when schools re-open without necessarily having to “test” them. The assessment and instructional practices in this document are intended to apply to all students, including students with disabilities and English learners.
- **Plan for Reimagining CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning** - The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for developing local Continuous Learning Plans to support the reopening of all schools that will provide continuity of learning.
- **Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together** - This document is intended to be a fluid document that will evolve based on the public health data trends as well as the understanding of the best way to mitigate spread.
- To close the digital divide in Connecticut and empower students across the state to learn from home, Governor Lamont recently announced this initiative [Everybody Learns Initiative](https://www.ct.gov/dfe/lib/dfe/documents/2020/2020%20Everybody%20Learns%20Initiative%20Priorities%20Four%20Priorities%20Executive%20Summary.pdf) to fill any device and/or connectivity gaps that may still remain.

Webinar Specific Resources:

**Webpages**

- **Connecticut School Family Partnerships** - The Connecticut Family School Partnership brings together the expertise and resources of five diverse educational and family advocacy agencies committed to developing a Connecticut family engagement model that creates a culture of full, equal and equitable partnerships between families, educators, and community partners to elevate student success.
- The TIES Center developed a framework for [building student engagement](https://tiescenter.org/building-student-engagement/) with distance learning for students who learn differently. TIES also released resources on [morning meetings](https://tiescenter.org/morning-meetings/), [collaborative behavioral supports](https://tiescenter.org/collaborative-behavioral-supports/), and [effective specially-designed instruction](https://tiescenter.org/specially-designed-instruction/).
- **The TIES Center** - TIES Center is the national technical assistance center on inclusive practices and policies.
- **Ceedar Center’s Virtual Tool Kit** - Resources to support teaching online.
- **CCSSO COVID -19 Parent and Community Engagement Resources**, Council of Chief State School Officers, 2020. Developed for educators, this resource provides resources and sample templates that support staying connected to families and enhancing community engagement.

**Articles**

- **How to Build an Online Learning Community (In 2020)** - Learn Worlds, April 28, 2020. Defines an online learning community and gives 8 tips to building your own online community.
- **5 Virtual Ways to Build a Classroom Community** - PBS, April 1, 2020. Provides teachers with examples of activities for synchronous and asynchronous teaching and for building community in a virtual classroom.
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- **When Kids Return to School, Kids May Have More Agency. Are We Ready?** ASCD, July 20, 2020. This article presents student views on remote learning and discusses the benefits of remote learning.
- **Top tips for teachers on engaging parents in learning** The Guardian, June 28, 2015. This article provides suggestions from various schools about how to engage parents in the learning process.
- **Parental Involvement: A Neglected Resource** ASCD, September 23, 2013. This article provides insights and considerations for improving parent/teacher communication.
- **School Reentry Considerations: Supporting Student Social and Emotional Learning and Mental and Behavioral Health Amidst COVID-19**: Resource developed by the American School Counselor association and the National Association of School Psychologists, 2020.
- **How Mindfulness Can Help During COVID-19**: Article sharing tips to calm anxiety during difficult times. (Available in Spanish)

Videos

- **Mindfulness for Educators**: This webinar, hosted by Sanford Harmony, captures the power of mindfulness to increase engagement and emotional intelligence in your classroom. Dr. Christopher Reina discusses the crucial ties between mindfulness and social emotional learning, as well as how self-awareness benefits both educators and students.
- **Emotional Intelligence and Resiliency: Teaching during COVID-19**: This webinar, hosted by Sanford Learning, is for educators who are struggling with the transition to remote teaching. Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa is an expert in building relationships and encourages educators to B.E.L.I.E.V.E.!® - Be the Educators who Lead to Inspire and Empower Via Example!