



Your Help Needed: Gathering Input on Promising Practices During the Pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Connecticut schools and colleges leveraged digital tools and approaches to support the continuation of learning, despite the need to adopt social distancing norms. While the return to in-person learning has eliminated the need for many of these practices, some have proven successful.

The Connecticut State Commission for Educational Technology seeks input on promising practices to guide future ed tech in our state. What uses of technology helped engage students in remote learning? What tools or approaches helped maintain strong connections between schools and colleges and parents and caretakers? What creative uses of technology helped tailor learning to students' personal needs and offer a supportive environment where they could thrive? How did the use of technology provide timely supports for teachers, instructors, and administrators? What changes took place with the help of digital tools that serve as models for streamlining the operation of schools and colleges?

The Commission welcomes broad input from the education community on these questions through a simple prompt that individuals may respond to using the ThoughtExchange platform:

What about technology use during the pandemic is worth keeping as we return to in-person education?

To that end, please share the letter below with your students, teachers, instructors, leaders, parents, and others who are invested in the education of Connecticut students. The platform is monitored continuously, and any thoughts containing inappropriate, hurtful, or personally identifying language will be immediately flagged and blocked from circulation. We will gather feedback from Thursday, July 8 through **Friday, September 17** and plan to publish a report of the most frequent and popular suggestions.

If you have any questions, please contact me at doug.casey@ct.gov or (860) 622-2224.

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SAMPLE OUTREACH MESSAGE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and colleges adopted new digital tools and approaches to support learning. While the return to in-person instruction has eliminated the need for many of these practices, you may want to see some continue. To that end, the Connecticut State Commission for Educational Technology welcomes your anonymous input on promising uses of technology to support teaching, learning, and operations in our schools and colleges, based on one simple question:

What about technology use during the pandemic is worth keeping as we return to in-person education?

Using the Thought Exchange platform, you can review and respond to the ideas shared by others (20 to 30 is ideal) and gain insights on the most popular suggestions. Your thoughts and ratings are confidential, and the platform supports multiple languages. We encourage you to return as often as you like between Thursday, July 8 and **Friday, September 17** to participate and rank new ideas shared since you first visited.

To get started, just visit this link:

<https://tejoin.com/824683559>

If you need technical help, call Thought Exchange at (800) 361-9027, ext. 4, or email help@thoughtexchange.com. For more information visit www.thoughtexchange.com. And thank you in advance for your suggestions!