

Key Themes: 2021 Completer Survey “COVID” Question

The question read:

“As you respond to this question, please consider your time teaching since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. During the pandemic, what additional knowledge and/or skills do you wish you had or did you need to learn to be an effective educator?”

Virtual/Online Teaching Skills

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental involvement with virtual teaching • Engaging students virtually • Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) strategies for students with disabilities (SWD) • Managing increased workload • Technology tools • Teaching math virtually • Virtual platforms (zoom, teams, google meet, etc.) • Lesson Planning • Teaching “Specials” virtually • “Classroom” management • Shorter teaching time • Mindful of student’s home environment • Video editing 	<p>“A large portion of the skills that would have been effective were/are directly related to teaching virtually during a pandemic. Some skills that would be useful: How to increase parental involvement in the education process, how to increase student engagement in the virtual learning process, how to manage greatly increased workloads as a result of virtual learning, and more SDI strategies to implement with the SPED population of my students.”</p> <p>“I wish I had the knowledge required to systematically apply technological offerings more effectively. I really want technology that allows a teacher to mimic an in-person experience. Being able to interact with the student, read non-verbal cues, and have students interact as a class is missed during the pandemic teaching approaches.</p> <p>“I wish that I had more experience with technology as it relates to teaching in a virtual environment, or experience with online resources/platforms as they relate to my content area.”</p>

Resources for Virtual/Online Teaching

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content based tools • Better training for utilizing all of the virtual learning platform tools • Creating engaging virtual resources • Differentiating online resources for age groups • Collaborative software • Digital integration tools • Resources for whole groups • Online resources to assist SWD • Tools to shift Assessments to virtual • Not enough resources provided 	<p>“I wish I had been taught how to effectively create online resources for students that still encouraged rigor and relevance. I am still learning how to add rigor and relevance to my online lessons, so the lessons for remote learners have been a bit lackluster so far this year. I wish I had more training on incorporating useful technology into the classroom, and not just for the ‘fun stuff.’”</p> <p>“I wish that I had more training on specific resources and tools that are available for teachers. I wish that I had a list of various resources, websites, apps, etc.. that I could use with my students to help enhance my instruction.”</p> <p>“I wish that I knew more about the many online resources available. I wish that I were better prepared to take my curriculum and make it more online accessible.”</p>

Strategies for Virtual/Online Teaching

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMS (Learning Management Systems) • Strategies to engage virtual learners with in-person learners • Virtual instruction strategies • Online strategies for primary aged learners • Too much time spent searching for online resources, not enough time spent on teaching content or learning strategies to teach online • Student paced learning strategies 	<p>“Throughout this school year (2020-2021), I have been teaching virtually through zoom. I wish I would have been taught more online resources to use with my students. It has been a year full of many adjustments, where I feel like as much as I have tried to be prepared, an overwhelming portion of my time is spent on finding virtual instruction resources which takes my focus away from other important aspects of teaching.”</p> <p>“Additional ways to engage with technology, especially LMS platforms. Other ways to use materials, or different ways on how to use common materials (access to materials was a huge problem for many of my students during COVID.)”</p> <p>“I have been teaching virtually since September 2020, and while I did feel prepared for the use of technology in the classroom, I wish I had been better prepared for how to engage students on the Kindergarten level in technology at home...”</p>

Virtual/Online Assessment Strategies

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving assessments in a virtual setting • Opportunities to learn more about assessment, especially virtual assessments • Formative and summative assessments • Assessment accommodations virtually • Learning curve • Analyzing assessment data 	<p>“Since everything turned digital with the pandemic, I would've have liked training and discussions regarding the use of online assessments and counseling services (i.e. Presence Learning). It was something we learned about on the fly here in my school district, but this was also the case for many other professionals.”</p> <p>“Because it is more difficult to do informal check ins online, a stronger emphasis on assessments would have been nice. While I have found ways to work around that, assessment is still an area that I'm growing in.”</p> <p>“In general, I would have benefited from more training on assessments and analyzing data and making changes in curriculum.”</p>

General Technology Use/Skills Development

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Technology • Integrating technology prior to COVID • Converting documents • Using Virtual Platforms (Google classroom, Google meet, teams, Zoom, Nearpod, Flipgrid, Kahoot, etc) • More experience with technology in Student Teaching • Creating digital resources • Should be more courses focused on EdTech in college • Using technology to engage students • Content pedagogy • Electronic communication • More PD for technology use 	<p>“During the pandemic I realized that additional instruction in the area of technology would have been effective. Not just identifying the available technology but generating a lesson through a given platform. During Student teaching, I feel that students should be required to provide at least one lesson through a distance learning platform.”</p> <p>“More experience in technology. As a teacher I needed to know how to conduct online classes as a college professor conducts online classes for students. I needed to become a Google Certified Educator and know the ins and outs of Canvas.”</p> <p>“More exposure to educational technology.”</p>

Virtual/Online Student Engagement

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining student engagement virtually New strategies tailored to virtual student engagement Meaningful virtual learning experiences Finding engaging alternatives for typically hands-on activities (e.g., Science Labs) Classroom Management Self-determined breaks Universal Design for Learning Professional Development for virtual student engagement 	<p>“How to ensure you are reaching all learner styles in a virtual format. How to deepen and ensure engagement when students have the option to leave cameras and microphones off. The importance of self-care and knowing when to step away for a break.”</p> <p>“Being that school is virtual, I needed to learn new strategies and idea to keep students engaged throughout the day.”</p> <p>“Developing meaningful virtual learning experiences and how to successfully engage students through a virtual learning platform.”</p>

“Nothing Could Be Done to Prepare”

Key Themes	Sample, supporting quotes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even in a typical first-year... first-year teachers (and teachers in general) can feel “in over their heads” A pandemic could not have been anticipated Nothing could have been done to prepare 	<p>“I don't know that the education program could have prepared me for what I need to know now. Nothing could have prepared me for the chaos that teaching is now! Just encourage teachers to be innovative and willing to change at any moment!”</p> <p>“COVID-19 has completely changed public education and there is nothing we can do about it. My experience at (institution) was wonderful. However, I don't think any education program truly prepares you for this profession. Preparation comes after your first and second year of teaching when you're getting your “feet wet.””</p> <p>“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic I have been unable to obtain a position. Because of this I do not know what additional knowledge or skills would be have been helpful for me to be a more effective educator.”</p>