

logitech®

THE POWER OF THREE

**MAINTAIN, ADAPT,
INNOVATE:**

TRANSITIONING TO
THE NEXT NORMAL
IN EDUCATION.



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INTRODUCTION

To date in 2020, at least 4,234 higher education institutions¹ and over 124,000 schools² have been required to move to distance learning formats across North America. This has affected 25,798,790 higher education students¹ and 55 million K-12 pupils², forever changing the way education programs are delivered.

With the next normal upon us, educational institutions are being pushed into re-thinking teaching models for a new world. For IT departments, this means driving the adoption of new technology to boost student engagement and maintain educational connectivity no matter what approach is taken. Schools, colleges, and universities must also be prepared and equipped to maintain student, staff, and educator safety, while enabling collaboration from afar. As a result, the use of video has quickly emerged as a critical tool that's now at the heart of many education strategies.

Today, many video collaboration platforms such as Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom are being offered with free access or reduced usage limitations to help institutions cope and embrace with the new digital ways of teaching³. Not only has video become the de facto standard for connecting at a distance; it is key to improving the learning experience and increasing inclusivity for all, no matter the situation.

RETURN TO SCHOOL SCENARIOS

The challenges presented this year in 2020 are huge, and the scale is still not understood. As a result, many schools do not know when they will re-open or to what extent “normal” education will resume. While some are returning this fall with reduced class sizes, new health policies, and social distancing measures, others are sticking with a 100% virtual model. For each scenario careful planning is needed with the right gear and support to make learning seamless from any environment.

SCENARIO 1: LEARN AND TEACH FROM HOME

Learning from home spaces will vary. While some educators and students have a designated work area, others have to make do with a corner of a communal space. Household distractions, learning with less structure, and health and emotions all play a part when it comes to daily disruption. Prioritize wellbeing by providing guidance on optimal learning space set-up, and share virtual best practice to ensure educators and students have the gear they need to stay connected and engaged.



IT TIP

Consider surveying educators, students, and staff to understand what they need to be productive and collaborative in new virtual learning environment. For those teaching and learning from home, would an Active Noise Cancellation headset with advanced noise cancelling microphone help keep them focused while eliminating background noise? Or would they benefit from guidance on taking regular screen breaks to maintain wellbeing and focus?

SCENARIO 2: RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

63% OF PARENTS AND 65% OF TEACHERS AGREE SCHOOLS ARE LIKELY TO REOPEN IN THE FALL⁴.

Adequate spacing between desks, daily cleaning of IT equipment and high touch points such as desks, door handles, and light switches, and sanitizing stations in each classroom will be crucial to maintain hygiene standards. Rather than students, it'll be teachers shifting to classes, while classrooms will have enough chairs removed to maintain social distancing. From a learning perspective, developing a video-first culture is critical to ensure educators and students stay connected. Particularly in such uncertain times, where education institutions may be required to move, without warning, to virtual learning environments.

IT TIP

Support safety standards by controlling how many educators and students are in one classroom at any given time. Tools like Logitech Sync provide insights into classroom utilization. Armed with this knowledge you can support social distancing via notifications when too many people are in a class or lecture hall, promoting student wellbeing by reducing health risks where necessary.



SCENARIO 3: THE HYBRID APPROACH

42% OF K-12 TEACHERS AND 54% OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATORS PREFER A HYBRID MODEL OF CONTINUING DISTANCE LEARNING AND IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION⁵.

Should your education institution decide a hybrid classroom approach is the right model, combine considerations from scenario 1 and 2. Work with your school, faculty, or facilities leaders to recommend maximum student capacity numbers. This could mean creating block schedules or keeping students separated by grade or alphabet to stagger class start times. Partial class attendance with some students being taught online and others in-person can be achieved by a week-by-week rotation. All large gatherings such as assemblies should be avoided, and every classroom should be equipped for video for those students who remain learning from home.

IT TIP

Face-to-face communication plays a crucial role in maintaining a feeling of connectivity - even if virtual. Configuring classrooms with the right video tools enables staff to better connect and collaborate with each other, as well as students. Video set up and camera positioning is an important consideration. For example, do you want a camera that's set up to be instructor-facing only? Or one that's more interactive, that shows the educator facilitating the lesson - with the ability to easily move the camera view from a whiteboard to the smartboard? What the student sees will impact on how engaged they are and their overall learning experience.

PLANNING THE TRANSITION

Institutions are preparing for their next normal – which may include a majority of staff and students returning to schools, colleges and universities, a strategy to continue remote learning, or a hybrid mix of the two. For a smooth transition it's important to provide your education institution with the right gear and guidance for the next normal learning strategy selected.



1. MAINTAIN WHAT STAYS THE SAME

Talk to educators, students and parents, and staff to find out what's working and therefore, what needs to stay the same. Things like personalizing the learning experience, prioritizing student health and wellbeing, and encouraging human connection must remain consistent. However, the way in which you help facilitate this through the use of technology will change. Consider:

1. CONNECTIVITY

Wherever educators and students are based, they must stay connected. This means providing them with the right gear so they can engage and interact whether inside or outside the classroom. When it comes to learning and collaboration, human interaction is everything.

2. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Mental and physical health must stay top priority. Work with educators to create online student support portals, and develop best practice home-learning health tips to help ensure students are learning remotely and using technology in a safe way.

3. PERSONALIZED LEARNING

To continue improving the learning experience and increasing inclusivity for all, schools must use the right tools to meet unique learning needs. Detect student needs and preferences, and customize the online learning experience to drive better results.

IT TIP

Equipping all classrooms – regardless of size – with video capability gives staff and students more flexibility to connect. In doing so you can make better use of school space, and lift limitations on where teaching and learning can happen.

2. ADAPT WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

Assemblies, full classrooms, and packed out lecture halls or lunch rooms could be a thing of the past. Over the next 12 months and beyond, IT will play a key role in transforming high capacity areas into smaller gathering spaces. The way educators work together must also change. This will be focused around new health and hygiene requirements and includes leveraging the right solutions to drive engaging learning experiences in a safe way.

1. CLASSROOM SET-UP

Support remote students by ensuring classrooms that were not previously equipped are fully video enabled, to allow for instructor facing and/or classroom virtual connections. Implement best practice usage policies to ensure communication is safe and secure.

IT TIP

Combine easy to use plug and play webcams with platforms that offer secure and easy access to make the video collaboration experience safer. This enables students to continue building essential relationships as a class, while setting up a school policy around secure video use ensures students conduct themselves in accordance with school behavior standards.

2. SUPPORT FOR REMOTE TEACHING

Only 60% of educators have received professional development training in the use of technology⁶.

Teachers – as well as students – not only need access to the right tools, they must be given the right amount of support no matter their tech capabilities.

IT TIP

Send out a survey to parents and teachers to gain a better understanding of what potential opportunities and obstacles exist when it comes to virtual technology. Use feedback to develop remote learning and teaching guides to help bridge any digital divide. Create online collaborative spaces where teachers can help each other by sharing best practices, what's working, and what's not.

3. NEW SAFETY STANDARDS

Health and hygiene will now dictate many changes in the school. New measures must be taken to ensure students can continue to learn flexibly while maintaining social distancing and safety policies. This can include the use of mobile carts equipped with video collaboration tools that move with the educator from class to class – reducing the need for teachers to share devices while connecting with students in and outside of the classroom.

IT TIP

Prepare collaboration and productivity packs that can be used by students to collect from a locker or pickup point at school. Include gear such as headset, webcam, mouse or tablet keyboard that is specifically allocated to and used by that student only.

3. INNOVATE WHAT'S NEW?

To keep pace with the next normal while meeting changing educator and student demand, and delivering a rich learning experience, your school must continue to adapt. When it comes to innovation, here are several developments to consider:

1. REMOTE SUPPORT

Interactive portals allow teachers and staff to access help with device management and advice on how to get the most out of their technology. This also enables IT to provide support when they can't be there in person. From how to find the best camera angle to discovering the quickest way to join a class, teachers and staff can find answers fast from any location.

2. CLASSROOM ANALYTICS

With machine learning technology that's able to detect if students, educators, and staff are too close together, IT can quickly identify proximity compromises to alert administration and/or facilities. Occupancy numbers can also be detected, with alerts that tell IT if for example 20 students enter a room when 15 is the capacity, all to keep students, teachers, and staff safe.



3. STUDENT AND TEACHER TECH LEADS

This scalable and creative approach is being adopted by schools to provide support to IT. Video collaboration super users are identified to become the tech lead for their class, grade, or school, to troubleshoot and optimize the experience for all. Miami-Dade's Hammocks Middle School is one such example. Its remote student IT support desk not only gives its participants hands-on experience in a potential career path, it has also led to a decrease in help tickets over time⁷.

IT TIP

From UV devices that disinfect hardware and peripherals to automated video meeting solutions with contactless collaboration, new technology requires users to be ready for change.

Even though the need to visually communicate in a video-first world is becoming more prevalent, adoption issues will still occur. When choosing which solution is right for your school, university, or college, always consider integration capabilities, set-up requirements, and any training needed – as well as the digital capabilities of your educators, students, and staff.

“We’re super excited by the fact that the education system is ready for digital change. We’re seeing a focus that’s shifting towards productive collaboration, with technology advancements that can help create an educational community driven by the future of learning. The use of video in the classroom helps expand the reach of innovation by breaking down the physical barriers of education. SMEs and new experiences like Microsoft Skype a Scientist, or virtual field trips can be introduced as new ways to create advanced learning curriculums. With this in mind we’re working on a number of new developments here at Logitech with a particular focus on how to enhance the virtual and remote classroom experiences, which we cannot wait to share.”

MADELEINE MORTIMORE, EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION, MANAGER

THE FUTURE OF VIDEO COLLABORATION TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

NEW LEVELS OF USER CONFIDENCE

Video collaboration has become critical for maintaining and building relationships in education, especially for bridging connections between students and educators that have not met before as they enter a new semester, class, or school year. With teaching and learning from home in place for months in 2020, educators have had time to transition to remote/hybrid teaching formats. Despite not being able to provide in-person instruction, educators have become more confident integrating video technology into their teaching methods. In turn this accelerates video adoption, making it easier to incorporate video as an essential tool for maintaining and building classroom relationships.

EXTENDED REACH

Video enables teachers to expand learning possibilities. Students can be exposed and connected to specialists across the globe, such as scientists through Microsoft Skype a Scientist Program. Video also enables schools, universities, and colleges to enhance school curriculum with virtual after-school spelling bees, online debates, or yoga sessions to promote mental well-being.

DID YOU KNOW?

To improve education, you need to think beyond the traditional classroom. Access to education needs to be digital, online, and mobile to empower learners with out-of-class support. Over 50% of teachers using such methods agree, citing that because of digital learning students are working together more often, developing greater problem solving and critical thinking skills, and are more motivated to learn⁸. This will forever change the way access to learning is viewed. In times of crisis or absenteeism due to sickness, digital ways of learning give students the ability to learn from home in any situation.

PROXIMITY JOIN TECHNOLOGY

Proximity join can enable classroom content to be shared by simply walking into a room. With teachers moving from classroom to classroom using their own technology, proximity join technology allows an educator to connect a virtual classroom using their own device (with a desktop client). This reduces or eliminates the number of touches needed, and saves time without the need to search for meeting room numbers. Proximity join also reduces numbers of students sharing devices, to further support hygiene standards. The teacher can automatically connect the class with remote students – while students touch only their own devices. Furthermore, time can be saved with less cleaning required, minimized IT support, and managing new hybrid teaching scenarios or social distancing for large numbers of students.

DID YOU KNOW?

Staff and students in Zoom Rooms or Microsoft Teams can use one-click direct sharing from a Desktop Client, which automatically connects to the meeting room when they click Share Screen. Students have no need to touch any other devices other than the one issued to their teacher – resulting in big time savings and better hygiene management when it comes to cleaning.

TRANSFORM YOUR CLASSROOMS WITH LOGITECH

“Let’s hope that when COVID-19 is in our rear view mirrors, the innovations and technology that helped our students and educational institutions get through it become commonplace and often used tools in the great task of educating America’s students.” Forbes⁹

We’re seeing major changes occurring across the education system. Where schools once had temporary solutions in place for video collaboration, they now need longer term solutions to engage in a virtual world where health and safety is front and center of everyone’s mind.

In fact, 61% of parents are likely or very likely to consider changing schools if their desired safety measures aren’t met¹⁰. With the current economy putting a strain on state and local resources, it’s more important than ever before for school districts to listen to parents’ concerns and respond for the upcoming school year.

Whether it’s educators holding virtual classes, lecturers giving interactive virtual seminars, or faculty conducting remote assessments, video enables people to communicate in a way that feels up close and personal, even when not in the same room.

In a world where in-person full time learning may take a long time to return, Logitech can support you to help your school stay connected and engaged. Logitech’s solutions for home learning workspaces and classrooms, are easy to setup, manage, and use – transitioning you smoothly to the next normal.



Transition to the next normal with Logitech Video Collaboration solutions.



Sources: 1. Entangled Solutions - Institutional Change and Impact Map 2. Reason Foundation - The Coronavirus Pandemic's Impact on Education and the Defenders of the Status Quo 3. Vox - Microsoft, Google, and Zoom are trying to keep up with demand for their now free work-from-home software 4. USA Today - Back to school? 1 in 5 teachers are unlikely to return to reopened classrooms this fall, poll says 5. Burlington Free Press - Educators are uncomfortable returning to school in the fall, national survey finds 6. Varkey Foundation - Key data: Less than half of teachers are ready to use tech 7. Education Dive - Student-run IT help desks provide remote support during school closures 8. Viewsonic - The Benefits of Video in the Digital Classroom 9. Forbes - How Technological Innovation In Education Is Taking On COVID-19 10. Education Dive - Survey Reveals Parents' Top Concerns About Returning to School Since COVID-19

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