

# How Educators can Support Transition-age Students with Online Learning



## *Tips from the Self-Advocate and Self-Determination Work Group of the Massachusetts Partnership for Transition to Employment*



- Check in with the student often (via Google Classroom, Zoom, or even phone or FaceTime).
- Offer [virtual office hours](#) where students can bring you concerns.
- Make sure students understand the assigned lessons.
- Don't count on parents to explain assignments.
- Make lessons as engaging as possible. Offer multiple ways for students to share their thoughts, and use features like breakout rooms on Zoom.
- Be creative. What's available to the students in their homes to help them learn? For example, if you use blocks in a lesson, have your students use pasta from their kitchen. Let them talk about their pet to the class. [This article has more suggestions for creative engagement.](#)
- Be aware of each student's individual needs. Not everyone learns the same way. If you notice a student struggling with online learning, meet with them privately to discuss alternate options such as sending hard copies of the assignments to their home.



### What about virtual IEPs?

- Since frameworks for IEPs and ISPs stay roughly the same each meeting, help students create an interactive PowerPoint to answer certain questions (this can be done in advance of the meeting).
  - Use pictures (worth a thousand words). This creates the talking points.
  - Have the student record their voice to make important points.
  - Example: [Garrett Shows I'm in Charge](#)

### What about virtual career exploration?

- Learn about [visual / virtual resumes](#).
- Videos can also be a great resource to learn about various career paths. [Careeronestop has multiple videos](#) categorized by career area.
- [VocFit has even more career exploration videos!](#)

