
Online Professional Development for Virtual School Instructors

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NACOL

November 2007



Overview to Today's Session

- What are the key challenges online instructors face?
- What are the key characteristics of an effective online instructor?
- Why do online instructors need training and ongoing professional development?
- What kind of training and support do they need?
- How can online professional development support online instructors?

EdTech Leaders Online Online Professional Development for Virtual Schools

- Online Instructor course
 - ❑ Building a learning community
 - ❑ Facilitating discussions
 - ❑ Technical issues
 - ❑ Assessment
 - ❑ Course content
- Building a Community in a Virtual School course
- Online Training for Onsite Mentors
- Online Student Orientation Course
- Planning and Implementing a Virtual School
- Ongoing support and national Forum

Discussion

What are the challenges an online instructor faces?

What are successful strategies to address these challenges?

What's different when teaching online?

- Online curriculum different from f2f curriculum
- Social dynamic different from traditional classroom
- Need experience in online environment
- Need specific strategies for hybrid models
- Assessment strategies different
- Need preparation technical challenges

Facilitation Tips

- Communication
 - Combine whole group and individual email regularly
 - Combine synchronous and asynchronous methods
 - Provide clear directions and be approachable
- Support: Guide participants through projects and activities
- Expectations: Establish clear expectations and deadlines
- Online Voice: Be positive, personal, informal, mindful of tone
- Provide regular feedback

Facilitation Strategies

- Model good online behavior
- Encourage participant reflection
- Listen to and learn from participants
- Be positive!
- Use whole group and individual participant strategies
- Be sensitive to netiquette, dominating voices, writing style
- Be flexible to meet goals and needs of group
- Use effective questioning techniques
- Utilize casual chat and share personal side

Thank you!

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