

Virtual Instruction Training for Louisiana Teachers & Leaders

Free training sessions on high-quality
virtual teaching practices



Providing all students with effective virtual instruction starts with building on what educators already know about great teaching and transforming it for the virtual environment – but that change is not easy, and educators need more support to navigate it well, particularly now that the school year is underway.

The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching to help teachers and school leaders become more equipped to plan for and strengthen virtual instruction. Starting this month, educators will receive **free access to three, 90-minute professional learning sessions** that model effective virtual teaching and provide educators with tips, templates, and strategies to use immediately in their virtual classrooms. These sessions will be taught live (synchronously) and offered several times a week over the course of 2020-21. Registration will open to school systems by October 16.

Educators will leave these sessions with an understanding of what effective teaching practices look like in an online classroom; ideas for how to plan, transform, and strengthen virtual lessons; and strategies to improve student engagement and increase student growth in a virtual learning environment. There will also be different options for teachers and principals to receive more tailored support based on their role. Sessions for principals and administrators will focus on coaching practices and strategies, while teacher sessions will provide more content teachers can directly use in their virtual instruction. In addition to the synchronous sessions on virtual instruction, asynchronous modules will be available later in the year.

Key objectives are listed below. Objectives differ slightly for principals.

Session 1: Planning for Virtual

- Examine key differences between planning for traditional face-to-face and virtual learning
- Analyze mindsets that impact planning for virtual learning
- Be able to utilize planning resources and NIET's rubric companion tool for virtual instruction to develop high-quality online lessons

Session 2: Virtual Instruction

- Develop an understanding of what effective instructional practices look and sound like in virtual teaching
- Examine how teachers in a virtual setting impact student achievement
- Be able to plan for effective virtual instruction

Session 3: The Virtual Environment

- Analyze how to transition to teaching and learning in the virtual environment
- Understand how to shift an exemplar learning environment to a virtual classroom
- Be able to create and facilitate an effective virtual learning environment

Trainings will be offered multiple times over the course of the year for both teachers and administrators. More information is available [at NIET.org](https://www.niet.org).