

Digital Tools for Supporting Students

During the current school year, educators need to use tools and methods that easily shift between in-class, hybrid, and distance learning as situations change. Even when giving instruction in person, it is best to reduce or eliminate papers being shared between students or submitted to the teacher to lessen common contact points. No matter the setting, educators need to plan for all aspects of educating students yet have flexibility to shift between in-person and online learning.

This list of digital tools has been curated to address four essential components of instruction: active engagement, communication, accessibility, and assessment/feedback. The visual anchors, shown below, identify the potential support provided by each tool. These tools were recommended by educators and are free or reasonably priced. Some tools are best used with a specific grade span or content area, but do not require a specific curriculum. Additional resources are available from RIDE for Differently Abled Students and for Multi Language Learners.



Active engagement in learning is a challenge, especially when students may not be in the same physical

space with the educator. Personal interaction, creating a classroom community, and making connections to students' lives are needed to achieve student engagement. Using a variety of strategies is best to keep students engaged.



Communication between educators, students, and families is essential. Clear, consistent communication

with families will help them to support their students. Providing methods for two-way communication leads to better family engagement and builds a partnership between home and school.



Accessibility is fundamental to education and students with learning differences need equitable access to

academic activities. Use of some tools can provide an accommodation to help a student access the content. Other times, the same tools can be used to modify an assignment and the academic standards achieved to meet student ability. Thoughtful use of supports should ensure an appropriate learning stretch and avoid over accommodation/ modification.



Assessment and feedback are necessary to measure and communicate progress in

all content areas. Teachers need to continually assess student learning to plan appropriate learning activities and provide feedback that guides student improvement. Progress toward meeting content area standards/objectives needs to be communicated to students and families along with feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Contact <u>Carolyn.Higgins@ride.ri.gov</u> with any questions or feedback.



Recorded RIDE Professional Learning Sessions

Session 1: October 27, 2020 <u>Link to Recorded Session</u>	 FlipGrid with Liz Russillo Kami with Nicolle Greene Pear Deck with Wayne Lima
Session 2: November 30, 2020 <u>Link to Recorded Session</u>	 <u>EdPuzzle</u> with Jane Ramos <u>Whiteboard.chat</u> with Pawan Uberoy
Session 3: December <u>Link to Recorded Session</u>	 <u>Nearpod</u> with Elizabeth Eastman <u>Jamboard</u> with Carolyn Higgins
Future Sessions are being Planned!	• TBD

^{**}If you use any of the other Digital Tools listed and would be interested in presenting how they are used to a group of Rhode Island colleagues in an online Professional Learning session, please contact Carolyn.higgins@ride.ri.gov.











Actively Learn allows students to engage with texts assigned to them. The free version has a range of books, articles, and informational texts that would be appropriate across the disciplines. Good for students at a variety of levels, as the platform has text-to-speech, translation, highlighting, and annotation tools built into it.

Potential Uses:

- Text discussions
- Modeling annotation skills
- Practicing annotation
- Chunking reading
- Gathering information
- Analyzing sources of data
- Compare/contrast points of view
- DBQs with Primary Sources
- Supporting struggling readers
- Personal response entries

Tutorials/Guidance

- Quick Start Guide
- Reading to Learn: What Matters
- ELL Strategies & Best Practices

Notes

- Product is marketed for use in grades 4-12
- Student Privacy information
- Free accounts: interactive reading; 3300 texts; limited text imports; ability to embed questions, notes, and media; and Google Classroom integration
- Prime accounts (school- or district-wide): unlimited text imports, collaborative tools, differentiated assignments, and data/reporting tools









An organizational tool that gives special education teachers, parents, and other caregivers one place to share information about a student's behavior and progress. It's intended for use with kids with developmental disabilities but can be used for any kid as needed. The student's information is stored in a planner-style space where users can view or edit the information, based on the sharing settings set up by the teacher. Creates reports show student progress over time.

Potential Uses:

- Track attendance, behavior, activity level, and other non-academic factors
- Communicate daily behavior with families
- Communication log
- Monitor and communicate behavior with families
- Measure/record progress in i.e.p. goals
- Create charts to show progress
- Monitor use of accommodations

Tutorials/Guidance

- Overview of Birdhouse
- Help Center

- Free Lite version: basic behavior log, student summaries, and communication tools
- Premium version: reporting features, alerts/notifications, file uploading, etc
- Privacy policy











Bloomz allows one place for all communication, behavior management, and portfolio organization. Families can opt to receive messages in their home language. Unlimited length messages can be sent to individuals or the entire class, and teachers can determine if the message was read. This platform supports communication between families to plan activities or share information. Student accounts are available for middle and high school. Bloomz can be used to communicate between individuals in PTA/PTO or with a faculty

Potential Uses:

- Send updates to families
- Families can send messages to teacher
- Share student work
- Track behavior & send reports to parents
- Share photos/videos, files and links
- Allow parents to sign up for events
- Schedule conferences
- Reminders for events in calendar
- COVID Health checks

Tutorials/Guidance

- Bloomz Demo for Schools
- Webinar: Get the year off to a good start!

Notes

- Free for individual teachers
- District account includes robocalling features
- Privacy Policy







ClassTag is a web-based account and app that sends messages through a secure platform, delivered according to parent/guardian preference (text, email, etc.). Messages can include files, links, sign-up requests, calendar invites and personal messages. Educators can send messages to an entire group or an individual and have ability to see if messages have been read. Communication can be two-way, and the educator can set office hours to limit the schedule of reply. Active accounts receive rewards from sponsors.

Potential Uses:

- Class/school announcements and newsletters
- Share links/files
- Polling families
- Photo/video sharing
- Event sign ups
- Pre-schedule class requests and reminders
- Conference scheduling
- Class calendars

Tutorials/Guidance

- Getting Started with ClassTag
- ClassTag Remote Learning

- Integrates with Google LMS and YouTube easily
- Use of product is free but includes ads
- Revenue from ads is used to give rewards to teachers
- Privacy Policy





desmos







Desmos is a free graphing and teaching tool for math available on the web as well as on iOS and Android. In addition to plotting equations, classroom activities are available to help students learn about a variety of math concepts. Students can enter an equation to see the graph that is made; sliders allow students to adjust values and see the effect on the graph. Graphs can be saved to revisit later.

Potential Uses:

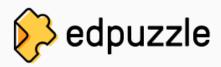
- Online calculators (graphing, scientific, 4 function, and matrix)
- Draw and measure characteristics of geometric shapes, lines, and vectors
- Project/share screen to model graphing steps
- Student collaboration or sharing of solutions
- Pre-made activities
- Monitor progress on dashboard
- Take snapshots of student work to share examples with the class
- Support students who struggle with motor/spatial issues
- Potential modification for students learning to graph on chart paper

Tutorials/Guidance

- Desmos tutorial for Students or Teachers
- Desmos Class Activities

Notes

- Free to teachers and students
- Directions for use provided in multiple languages
- Includes practice for using the tools on RICAS & NGSA assessments (see Test Practice under Math Tools)
- Support for visually impaired students: screen reading math expressions and clear descriptions of graphs
- Privacy policy









Web-based tool that allows a teacher to embed questions in their own videos or videos from YouTube, Khan Academy, etc. Tools allow for teachers to create pauses in videos to add information or embed questions to be answered along the way. Students respond to the question and the video resumes. Questions can be m/c or short answer. Student responses are easy to access and assess.

Potential Uses:

- Teacher-made video of math concepts w/practice breaks
- Content delivery by teacher w/checks for understanding
- Delivering background information
- Social Emotional learning
- Display a Phenomenon for open ended observations or questions
- Self-paced lessons
- Closed captioning with video
- Preload information for students with executive functioning issues
- Preview vocabulary with students

Tutorials/Guidance

- How to use EdPuzzle to Create Video-based Lessons
- Getting Started with EdPuzzle
- Sample EdPuzzle
- RIDE PL session recording

Notes

- Basic (free account): storage space for 20 videos and analytics on student results
- Pro Teacher version: unlimited storage of lessons
- Best used with grades 3-12
- Passive use is not suggested, use high level questions to engage students in critical thinking
- <u>Privacy/access</u> information from EdPuzzle









This web-based blog platform allows teachers to monitor student blogs, read/comment on blogs, and control privacy settings on student blogs. Students do not need to supply an email address to join. Students can personalize their blog with themes, images, video, etc. Allows for unlimited entries.

Potential Uses:

- Provide student choice in writing
- Use as a journal to collect each student's entries as they practice writing skills or respond to prompts
- Use blogs to engage students in SEL topics

Tutorials/Guidance

- Edublogs Screencast
- How to set up a blog on Edublogs

Notes

- Free version- limit of 1 GB of storage (ad free)
- Paid version- more tracking ability, single sign on, and larger data storage
- Privacy Policy









EquatIO, a Google extension and web-based editing tool, allows mathematical equations and formulas to be created directly. Math notation can be converted from speech to text, typed, or handwritten entries. EquatIO can also be used for graphing practice.

Potential Uses:

- Write mathematical equations, formulas within assignments and assessments
- Students can use appropriate math notation when completing work online.
- Use in physical science courses for chemical notation or solving for variables
- Create formative and summative assessments
- Speech to text options provide accessibility for all

Tutorials/Guidance

- Getting your students started with EquatIO
- EquatIO for Math & Science online

- Teachers get a free premium subscription
- Extension can be used in MS products and GSuite products, including Forms
- Privacy Policy













Free video discussion platform. Teachers post a prompt for students that can include a teacher-recorded video or links to resources. The teacher sets a maximum length for student video response, up to 10 minutes. Videos are posted for the class in a grid that the teacher moderates. Grids have a unique code that can be shared by email, Classroom, and Remind.

Potential Uses:

- Assess prior knowledge
- Phonetic practice
- Project presentation
- Video responses
- Student/teacher feedback
- Number Talks
- Three Act Math
- Deliver content
- Process demonstration
- Reflections
- Exit Tickets
- Show exercise form

Tutorials/Guidance

- Getting Started with FlipGrid
- Getting Students Started
- Educator Guide
- Sample FlipGrid
- RIDE PL session recording

Notes

- Parent consent required under age 13
- Best used with grades 3-12
- Free for teachers and students
- Select "Student ID # list" for the grid type and create custom IDs for each student manually
- No public grids, even if password protected
- Toggle 'moderate' to require approval before posting







Web-based tool that allows users to type in or write outusing a stylus, fingertip, or mouse- mathematical notation. Equations can become graphs and graph attributes can change based on edits to the original entry. Sliders allow the user to see what happens to the graph or solution when the value of the variable changes. Teachers can create selfgrading practice problems (from scratch or by importing a pdf) and give feedback to student submissions.

Potential Uses:

- Demonstrating math processes
- Formative assessment
- Student collaboration
- Create math practice sets
- Turn a pdf into an online practice set
- Give feedback in assignment
- Math applications within physical science

Tutorials/Guidance

- FluidMath Tutorials
- How to Create a Graph
- Sample FluidMath

Notes

- Full functions are available using a mouse or typing in characters, optimal to use a stylus on a touch screen
- Individual accounts are \$15/year
- Email info@fluiditysoftware.com for group pricing
- <u>Fluidity</u> privacy policy





Google Drawings







A built-in GSuite tool that can be accessed through a Google account. Allows individuals or collaborative groups to create graphics. Creations can include text, images, and links. They can be saved as images to be included in a doc or used with Jamboard, etc. as any other image can be. They can also be embedded onto webpages.

Potential Uses:

- Creating a scientific model
- Showing a process
- Collaborative creative products
- Assessing student understanding
- Creative projects
- Reflecting on a book or a concept.
- Showing mathematical thinking
- Engineering design
- Infographic design

Tutorials/Guidance

- A guide to Google Drawings for Teachers, Students, and Bloggers
- Getting Started with Google Draw
- Sample Google Drawing

Notes

- Use of drawing tools may be limited for students who have challenges with motor skills.
- A mouse may be preferable to a trackpad.
- Standard permissions as GSuite







Google's digital whiteboard app that is easily used with GSuite products- it is an app in the Chrome browser or accessed on the web. Teachers can create a page for students to add ideas on virtual sticky notes or add pictures and links. The pieces can be rearranged/sorted. Jamboard includes a drawing tool. Boards can have multiple pages, like slides. Frame can be saved as an image or pdf.

Potential Uses:

- Collaboration
- Feedback from peers
- Virtual gallery walks
- Brainstorming
- Storyboarding
- Driving Question Board
- Analysis of a math solution
- Venn Diagrams
- Organizing ideas
- 4 A's Text Protocol
- Response to text

Tutorials/Guidance

- Introduction to the Jamboard App
- How to Use Google Jamboard
- Sample Jamboard
- RIDE PL session recording

Notes

- Student icon is visible while in the app, but once they exit the entries are anonymous, teachers should require students to self-identify.
- Teachers can lock the board once the work is complete, so no one changes it or adds rogue entries.











Kami is used to annotate on pdf files. It is both a Chrome extension and a web-based tool. Teachers and students can use a pdf of text or an image. Tools include highlight, underline and strikethrough. Text comments and text boxes can also be used as well as shapes. Tools can be accessed with mouse, trackpad or stylus/touchscreen device.

Potential Uses:

- Correct/give feedback on student work
- Make any pdf file writeable-make any handout available for online completion
- Demonstrate annotating a text passage
- Overlay instructions on a pdf to explain an assignment

Tutorials/Guidance

- Kami with Classroom for Teachers
- Kami Quick Guide
- RIDE PL session recording

Notes

- Free version-basic tools is available
- Students need Kami app on their device to use tools
- Paid version- 1 teacher & 150 students, access to enhanced tools, integration with LMS
- Privacy Policy







A web-based discussion platform. This is a product that allows the teacher to make a claim and engage class in argumentation/debate. The teacher can link resources for students to review and students can link resources to support their argument, pro or con. The teacher can moderate responses and reply directly to a comment to ask the student for more details or support for their point.

Potential Uses:

- Argumentation
- Debate
- Class discourse
- Outlining a research paper
- Making claims from data
- Building consensus
- Thesis development
- Digital Citizenship

Tutorials/Guidance

- Kialo Tour
- Kialo Walk Through
- Sample Kialo

- Best with grades 7-12
- Option for teacher to approve posts prior posting
- Free for educators & students
- Kialo's privacy policies













Loom is a screen recording tool that will create screencasts of lessons or demonstrations that can be shared with students for asynchronous instruction. Camera source can be changed. User can record screen, or a camera view or both. Videos can be edited using the tools in Loom. Videos can be shared from Loom using a link or saved to YouTube or Google Drive for other sharing methods.

Potential Uses:

- Direct instruction
- Demonstrate use of a digital tool for students or families.
- Narrating over video footage
- Read-alouds
- Video messages to families
- Feedback on student work
- Student project presentations
- Student explanations
- Speech/language/phonic practice

Tutorials/Guidance

- How to use Loom and record your lesson
- Loom Beginners Tutorial 2020

Notes

- Pro version is free for verified teachers
- Find in the Chrome Web Store
- Desktop app available
- Store videos in Loom, YouTube or Google Drive
- Privacy Policy









An interactive polling tool with a wide array of creative options. This can be used to create polls that are open-ended or multiple choice. Images and gifs can be used in the presentation. Codes for responses can be included in slides or shared via email, Google Classroom, or Remind. Responses can be submitted on a computer, a tablet, or a cell phone. Can be configured to be presented in many languages.

Potential Uses:

- Building Consensus
- Feedback
- Decision making
- Formative assessment
- Assign Polls
- Create matrices
- Brainstorming
- Warmups
- Exit tickets

Tutorials/Guidance

- Teaching strategies for the remote classroom
- 5 Ways to use Mentimeter with Students
- Sample Mentimeter

- Free version: unlimited presentations, limits to two questions per presentation or 5 quiz questions per presentation, all questions types, responses exported as PDF
- Basic plan available: free version benefits plus unlimited questions & data exported in excel file
- Mentimeter privacy policies











Mote is a Chrome extension that enables teachers to add voice comments and feedback to shared documents. Mote works with GSuite products. Teachers can use mote to ask students questions and provide feedback, efficiently but with a personal feel.

Potential Uses:

- Personalize feedback to students
- Model correct pronunciation of words for language learners
- Suggest revisions
- Explain a grammatical error
- Record a verbal explanation of assignment directions for students

Tutorials/Guidance

- Mote extension overview
- Mote voice commenting for G Classroom and GSuite

Notes

- Found in the Chrome Web Store
- 15-day free trial available
- Paid accounts start at \$19/year
- Max message length: 30 seconds for free trial, 90 sec for paid versions
- Paid account supports written transcriptions in more than 20 languages
- Privacy Policy









Content delivery tool to create learning sequences from video, text, and other resources. A variety of assessments can be built into the sequence. Tools include text-to-speech, simulations, virtual polls, and assessment activities. Teachers can collaborate on activities with colleagues. When students access the system, they are self-directed by the assembled materials and respond to prompts within the system.

Potential Uses:

- Multimedia content delivery
- Guided research
- Game based learning
- Get student feedback
- Class discourse
- Formative assessment
- Summative assessment
- Simulations
- Collaboration boards
- Immersive reader

Tutorials/Guidance

- How to Nearpod
- Nearpod tutorial
- Nearpod webinars
- RIDE PL session recording

- Student responses can be text or audio
- Free version- 40 students per session and 100MB storage
- Paid plans- more students, larger storage, and enhanced features
- Nearpod privacy policy













Parlay is a web-based platform that supports group discussions to engage students who are in-person and/or distance learning. Teachers can choose a pre-made topic or create their own. Students review the prompt and any materials that the teacher has provided and then provide their personal response. Classmates can give feedback or build off others' ideas. Facilitate a live discussion while students make notes in the online tool. This allows for all students to be involved in the discussion either verbally or through written comments. The teacher receives data for student engagement and can provide personalized feedback.

Potential Uses:

- Book discussions
- Social Justice debates
- Discussion of historic events
- Discussion of scientific observations
- Developing scientific claims based on data and evidence
- Argumentation from evidence

Tutorials/Guidance

- Full Parlay Walkthrough
- Live RoundTable Introduction: For Teachers

Notes

- Free trial- up to 12 Roundtable events.
- Paid accounts- \$160/year per teacher, site licenses-\$3/student, allow unlimited events.
- Privacy policy









Interactive presentation tool that allows easy integration with GSuite products. Includes student engagement tools that can be answered in multiple ways- m/c, text, drawing, etc. Teachers can deliver multi-media lessons, give assignments, and include formative assessment as students progress through the sequence.

Potential Uses:

- Multimedia content delivery
- Guided research
- Game based learning
- Get student feedback
- Class discourse
- Formative assessment
- Summative assessment
- Simulations
- Collaboration boards
- Immersive reader

Tutorials/Guidance

- How to teach a remote lesson with Pear Deck
- Getting Started with Pear Deck Slides
- Sample Pear Deck
- RIDE PL session recording

- Best for use with grades 4-12
- Free version available
- Paid versions add immersive reader, teacher feedback, draggable and drawn responses, and student paced mode
- <u>Pear Deck</u> security practices











A polling tool accessed by app or browser. Link to a poll can be shared in presentations, on Google Classroom, or sent via email/Remind. Polls can be completed on a phone, tablet, computer. Offers a range of poll types- multiple choice, short answer with 'votes' by other participants, creation of a word cloud from responses, clickable image, ratings, survey, etc.

Potential Uses:

- Building Consensus
- Feedback
- Decision making
- Formative assessment
- Assign Polls
- Create matrices
- Brainstorming
- Warmups
- Exit tickets

Tutorials/Guidance

- Poll Everywhere tutorials
- 10 active learning strategies that connect teachers with students
- Sample Poll Everywhere

Notes

- Free version: unlimited questions and a max of 40 responses per poll
- K-12 premium and school-wide plans are available: live results, choice of response URL, and access to reports/archived polls
- Best for use with grades 6-12
- Name capture is a typed response from student
- PollEverywhere privacy policy







A web-based game-style quiz tool that allows for quick formative assessment. Students engage easily and interspersed memes add some fun. Links can be shared through LMS or email. Response data is available immediately. Only allows multiple choice questions. Teacher can set a time limit and allow multiple attempts. Quizizz can be used as a live tool or self-paced.

Potential Uses:

- Check for understanding
- Exit tickets
- Flash cards
- Vocabulary practice
- Formative Assessment
- Polls

Tutorials/Guidance

- Getting Started with Quizizz
- Guide for Quizizz

Notes

- Open-ended responses are not supported
- Best for use with grades 3-12
- Free version (Basic plan) available, includes some ads
- Super plan: no ads, includes interactive video and audio clips, additional tools, new themes
- Shared/premade resources vary in quality
- Quizizz privacy policy









Read&Write is a literacy support tool available as software, an app, and a browser extension. It has 10 features that were developed to encourage readers and writers -- especially those with special language or literacy needs to access texts and improve their skills.

Potential Uses:

- Listen to any text passage with line-by-line text-to-speech or screenshot reader
- Make an MP3 of the passage being read
- Decode words in a passage using a standard or picture dictionary
- Translate passages to support language learners
- Highlight text using multiple colors
- Students record read aloud practice
- Students with motor skill challenges can dictate writing
- Read assessments to students aloud
- Can provide an accommodation for students with reading and writing difficulties to access content; can also be used as modification depending on what the task is assessing.

Tutorials/Guidance

- Read&Write for Google Chrome Overview
- Read&Write Tutorial

Notes

- Free access of text to speech feature always available
- Free premium trial available, includes all tools
- District-wide accounts (premium) start at \$1.80 per student
- Privacy Policy











This web-based tool allows a teacher or student to record their screen activity and include a voiced over narration to create instructional videos. Video segment can be saved to Google Drive/YouTube. Speaker can be shown on screen or not.

Potential Uses:

- Direct instruction
- Demonstrate use of a digital tool for students or families.
- Narrating over video footage
- Read-alouds
- Video messages to families
- Feedback on student work
- Student project presentations
- Student explanations
- Speech/language/phonic practice

Tutorials/Guidance

- Help and Learning Center
- Sample Screencastify

Notes

- Only works with Chrome browser
- Mainly used by teachers, student use 13+ or get parent permission
- Free version: 5 minutes per recording and 1 active assignment at a time
- Unlimited (paid) account: unlimited recording length and unlimited active assignments
- <u>Screencastify</u> privacy policy











TalkingPoints is a secure communication tool that uses accessible technology to promote family engagement. The web-based platform/mobile app is free and is focused on engaging families in under-resourced communities. The platform enables two-way translated communication and personalized content. The goal is to eliminate barriers including language, time, mindsets, and capacity in order to foster strong family engagement.

Potential Uses:

- Send messages to individuals, select groups, or entire classes
- Send announcements and updates
- Post surveys
- Two-way communication is translated into/from home-language (selected by individuals)

Tutorials/Guidance

- <u>TalkingPoints Introduction Video</u>
- Talking Points for Teachers Webinar

Notes

- Free for individual teachers, up to 200 students and 5 classes
- Site licenses have a cost (sliding scale) allow for SIS integration and schoolwide use
- Privacy Policy









This web-based whiteboard tool allows teacher to share individual whiteboards with each student. PDF files can be imported, allowing students to write on the pdf. Up to 100 users can connect to each board. Teacher can give feedback on individual boards & student can respond. Draw with mouse, trackpad, or touchscreen. Text boxes can be used to label. Tool has embedded chat function and video conferencing for interaction in the class. Tool has options for grid or music staff backgrounds.

Potential Uses:

- Collaborate on solving math problems or graphing
- Monitor students as they work through steps for solving problems independently.
- Draw a diagram or model to explain something
- Annotate/label any pdf that is loaded. (ex. Label a map)
- Use music staff to teach and practice musical notation

Tutorials/Guidance

- How to use Whiteboard.chat
- <u>Use whiteboard.chat to create breakout rooms for teaching</u>
- RIDE PL session recording

- Free
- Set the board so participants have to log in (keep them from being anonymous)
- Teacher can allow students to see each other's board
- Share a link (or post on Google Classroom) to invite students to board
- Privacy Policy