# Personalizing Virtual Classrooms: Fostering Human Connections

## Presenters:
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## Learning Objectives

1. Discuss key instructional strategies to strengthen human connections and enhance student engagement in virtual K-12 learning environments.
2. Explore comprehensive professional development approaches that support teachers in creating personalized and inclusive online learning experiences.
3. Explore blended learning models and extracurricular activities that foster community and connection among diverse student populations.

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# Audience Poll

If not intentionally planned, there is the potential for the dehumanization of learning in online instruction.

ChatGPT identified the following common research themes:
- Isolation & Social Disconnection
- Disengagement & Lack of Motivation
- Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Lack of Personalized Interactions with Instructors

PollEv.com/geetanjalisoni600

Response

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# How NCVPS is Addressing these Challenges

# Built into our Organizational Values

**OUR VALUES**:

We are **student-centered** and provide **solution-oriented** opportunities for success.

We believe all learners should have **equitable access to high-quality education options** regardless of their zip code.

We nurture learners' overall wellbeing by offering **opportunities** that support their **social and emotional learning**.

We are committed to offering **rigorous and appropriate coursework** for diverse learners.

We believe all learners deserve a **highly qualified, excellent teacher** who will encourage them to achieve their best.

We encourage our teachers to be **flexible** and support **individual learner success.**

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NCVPS:Mission, Vision, Values

# Built into Teacher Expectations and Clearly Stated

**Grading and Feedback:**
- Grade daily (Mon. - Fri.)
- Provide specific and directive feedback on all student work
- Utilize a positive, encouraging tone in all feedback

**Announcements**
- Incorporate appropriate content and/or resources to support student learning
- Post a minimum number a wee
- Include at least 1 non-text resource related to instruction.

**Communication**
- Welcome calls
- Required  communication with students
- Required parent communication
- Documentation journal
- Synchronous support sessions weekly

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**Built into Professional Development for PreService Teachers + PD for inservice teachers**

Professional Development on:
- Social Emotional Learning
- Accessibility
- Culturally Relevant Education
- Leveraging AI to Support Instruction

# Promoting SEL through the organization

- Leading by example. Building SEL opportunities into our staff, department and teacher meetings.
- Clearly stating organizational values.
- Focus on teacher wellbeing.
- More opportunities for teachers/teams to connect.
  - Teacher Newsletter
  - 15 year meetups
  - Teacher Lounge
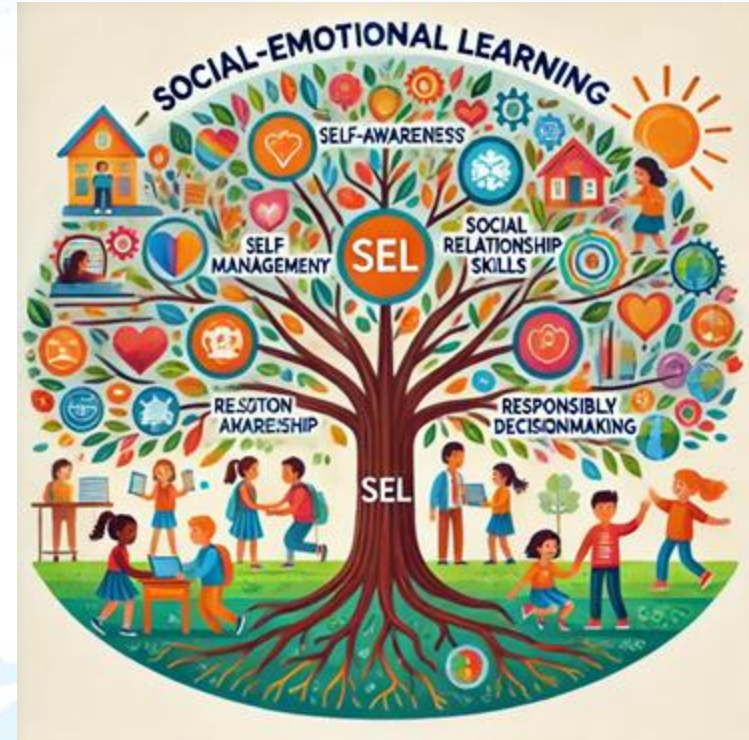  - IL and CL Lounge
- Listening to teacher Voice

We have standards to address and a curriculum to teach. But we also have a service to our students to help them thrive socially and emotionally. Taking this SEL PD gave me insight into how I could address the whole child, not just teach the subject matter.

**NCVPS teacher**

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# Promoting SEL through the organization …cont.

- Providing teachers with professional development opportunities.
  - Facilitated course
  - Self-paced course
  - webinars
- Providing teacher resources.
- Adding to Teacher Training
- **Required for all teachers**



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Image: Generated byChat GPT

# Building Accessibility in Course Design and Instruction

**Intentional Course Design**
- Accommodate common IEP needs, including printable content, alternative assessments, and text-to-speech compatibility.
- Accessibility features (alt text, transcripts, closed captions) are integrated during course design.
- Cultural diversity.

**Differentiated Instruction**
- Accessible resources
- Personalised feedback
- IEP and 504 modifications



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# Promoting Resources on Culturally Relevant Education

Focus of next Phase of Professional Development
Self Paced course
Future webinars and resources



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# Let's Connect & Share Ideas!



https://bit.ly/QMConnect24

In what ways does your organization currently foster—or hope to foster—meaningful human connections within online courses?

# Variety of Instructional Models to Support Diverse Learning Needs

# NCVPS Instructional Models

| Traditional | Supported Traditional | Co-Teaching | In Real Time (IRT) |
|---|---|---|---|
| NCVPS teacher only | NCVPS teacher + F2f support person who is **not** the teacher of record | • **Blended** (OCS students + EC F2F)<br>• **Intervention** (Student + F2F content area teacher)<br><br>NCVPS teacher + F2f teacher who **is** considered a teacher of record | **Middle School Core Courses** (7th & 8th core & Math 1)<br><br>NCVPS teacher + F2f support person who is **not** the teacher of record<br><br>Live/Synchronous Lessons incorporated |
| Sections can be mixed or school specific | School-specific sections | School/district-specific sections | School/district-specific sections |

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Student Clubs & Organizations

# Language Clubs and Societies

# Other Clubs and Societies

# Student Resources



WE ARE **STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS**

NCVPS Peer Tutoring Center

If you need some extra help during this course, get help from students who have already taken the course, at the NCVPS Peer Tutoring Center!

Iwork NCVPS

NCVPS Culture Café

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# Parent and Community Connections

How are you helping students and/or parents/guardians make connections outside of onlines classes?

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# Thank you

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