



Fall 2020 Social-Emotional Support for Students During the School Day

Students will continue to need social emotional support during the school day. While it can feel challenging to provide support virtually, there are several strategies that teachers can use to help students.

Supporting Students in the Classroom

Providing care, continuity and connection is essential to student well-being.

- Using a schedule and being consistent in your expectations provides students with emotional safety and allows them to thrive.
- You show care for your students when you listen to their feelings and acknowledge what they have been through.
- Use the private chat features or email/individual calls to students to check in with them.
- Connect with all of your students in a variety of ways, including using journal questions, Second Step, morning meeting/community circles and activities, such as having students display a “thumbs up/thumbs sideways/thumbs down” to reflect how they are feeling.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/7-ways-maintain-relationships-during-your-school-closure>

[Supporting Students During a Pandemic Professional Development](#)

Turning Cameras On

- Our expectation is that ALL students will have their cameras “on” during instruction. Note that some students are uncomfortable having their cameras on during instruction.
 - There may be several reasons for this, including feeling shy or anxious, especially while looking at their own reflection, embarrassment of having classmates see their living conditions, etc.
- Reach out privately to students to see if they can identify a reason why they aren’t turning their cameras on.
- When possible, offer them choices, such as sitting close to a wall so that their background is a solid wall with nothing else showing or having their cameras on only part of the time, to help support their social emotional needs. Turning cameras off must be requested by parents/guardians. *NOTE: Some students may have their camera and/or microphone off if their guardian does not permit their photo or voice to be recorded during Google Meet sessions.*

Additional Resources:

[Using Video to Assess Student Attention During Virtual Learning](#)

Refer to Your Student Services Team

Teachers are not meant to handle all of the social emotional needs of their students.

- Your school's Student Services Team is available for consultation and referral.
- Reach out to your school counselor, school psychologist or school social worker when students have significant social and emotional needs.
- Follow county procedures for handling any suicidal/self-injury, threats of harm to others, and indications of child abuse and/or neglect.

Additional Resources:

<https://intranet.aacps.org/Dept/studentervices/studentsvcs/Pages/CrisisTraumaMgmt.aspx>

SEL Resource Center

AACPS Student Services Department is creating a Social Emotional Learning Resource Center that will be available on Blackboard.

- The resource center will be organized by the five CASEL competencies and will have activities/lessons available for teachers of all levels to consider incorporating into their classroom lessons.
- The resource center will be updated throughout the year, so keep checking back for new ideas!