



Remote Learning Strategic Plan Overview

A Guide for Systems to Implement Remote Learning



Over 1.5 billion learners in 165 countries are affected by COVID-19 school closures.

“Never before have we witnessed educational disruption on such a scale,” said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. “Partnership is the only way forward. This Coalition is a call for coordinated and innovative action to unlock solutions that will not only support learners and teachers now, but through the recovery process, with a principle focus on inclusion and equity.”

UNESCO Global Education Coalition rallied international organizations, civil society and private sector partners including Microsoft to ensure #LearningNeverStops.

Specifically, the Coalition aims to:

- Help countries in mobilizing resources and implementing innovative and context-appropriate solutions to provide education remotely, leveraging hi-tech, low-tech, and no-tech approaches.
- Seek equitable solutions and universal access.
- Ensure coordinated responses and avoid overlapping efforts.
- Facilitate the return of students to school when they reopen to avoid an upsurge in dropout rates.

Microsoft’s Education Transformation Framework is an evidence-based model for designing system changes and leveraging technology to support that change. It can be a model to support schools and systems achieve successful alignment of strategic, operational, cultural, capacity-building, and technology resources to improve learning outcomes. There are **specific elements** of this Framework that are most relevant for Remote Learning strategies:



Education Transformation Framework

Remote Learning Strategic Plan Elements

Remote Learning
Strategic Plan Elements



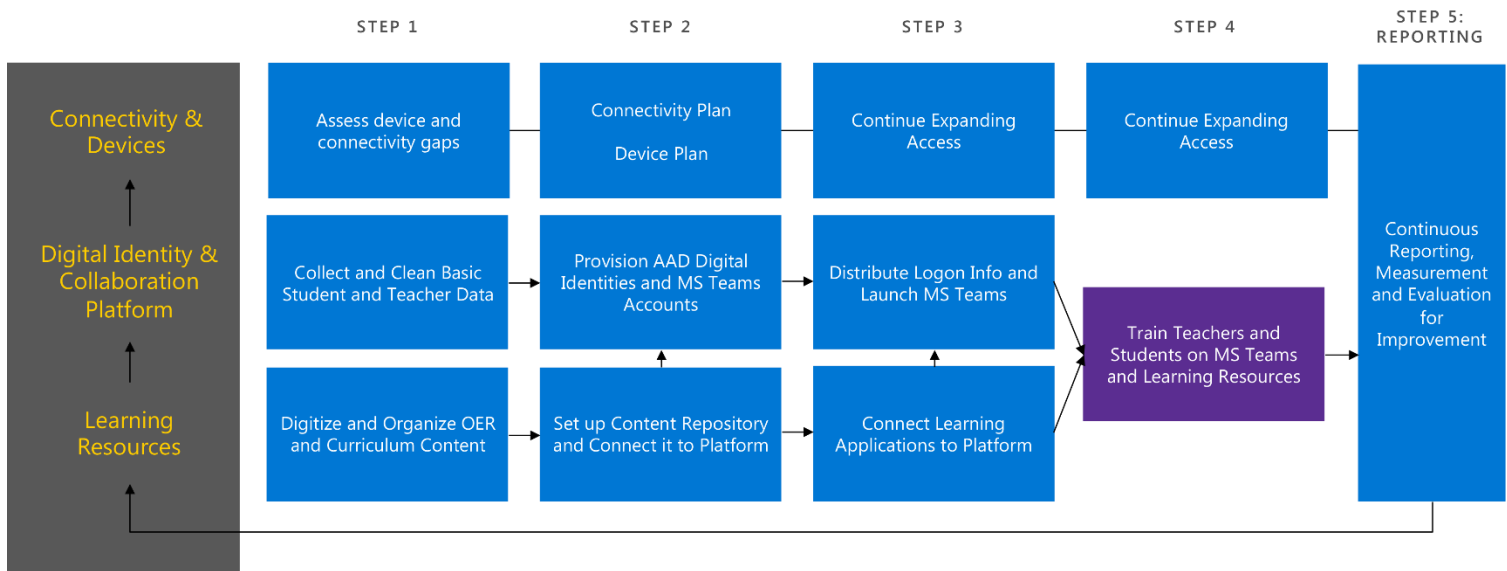
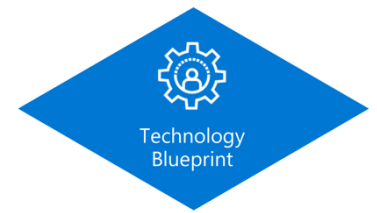
Find out more <http://aka.ms/ETF>

School and system leaders and their technology teams are being challenged to respond quickly to the current crisis with equitable solutions. These solutions need to be equitable for all students, sustain remote learning over the long-term; ensure the safety, privacy, and security of students; and set the digital foundation for continued innovation in learning when learners return to physical classrooms.

This *Remote Learning Strategic Plan for Education Systems* pulls together the elements from Microsoft Education that are most relevant for Remote Learning and provides a Technology Blueprint and Training Plan for rapid implementation.

Remote Learning

Technology Blueprint Implementation Steps



The [Technology Blueprint](#) is critical to underpin the success of implementing remote learning in contexts which range from low connectivity through to full connectivity. This guide identifies scenarios and provides step by step implementation plans and [training plans](#) to most efficiently set-up education systems for successful adoption of remote learning now and set the foundation for innovative teaching and learning in the new normal.

Overview of Remote Learning Strategic Plan

Context (COVID) - In times of local or global crisis, remote learning may be the only safe way to ensure students continue to learn. The [Technology Blueprint](#) and [Training Plan](#) documents outline **one process** for supporting all 3 stages of readiness for remote learning, based on the current readiness of an education system.

Three stages of remote learning and Microsoft Education Ecosystem



No or low connectivity

Broadcasting basic national curriculum

Emerging connectivity

Asynchronous classes using digital online curriculum on mobile phones or devices, with intermittent teacher-student communications, and attendance reporting

Full connectivity

Live online class meetings with complete national curriculum, student and teacher collaboration, and student grades and engagement reporting

Microsoft Education Ecosystem

Using technologies from Microsoft and our partner ecosystem to lower infrastructure costs and bring connectivity to all communities. Using global device ecosystem to expand device availability.

Microsoft Education Ecosystem

Digital Curriculum and OER content repository to provide access to learning resources for all learners, and Microsoft Teams for teacher, student and family communications and collaboration.

Microsoft Education Ecosystem

Microsoft Teams for both remote and in-school learning, providing advanced tools for inclusion of all learners and both synchronous and asynchronous class meetings.

Airband Initiative and Microsoft global device ecosystem

Microsoft O365 and Teams with Global and Local Digital Curriculum Partners

Microsoft O365 and Teams with Live Meetings, Video, and Partner Learning Applications

In reality, every system will have a mix of readiness including all three stages of remote learning, with some schools at the “Full connectivity” stage, some at the “No connectivity” stages, and the majority of schools in the “Emerging connectivity” stage. Having **one process** for a system to follow will support rapid progress in transitioning to remote and hybrid learning. This package of materials is based on the latest programs, products, and support from Microsoft engineering product groups, and will be updated as new supports and solutions for remote learning become available.

Education system leaders can ensure a shared vision of the scenario to be enabled by the remote learning engagement through identifying what stage they are at now, and where they want to go next.

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
Objective	Broadcast basic curriculum for continuity of access to learning content, supplemented by print materials and attendance as possible	Providing asynchronous digital classes with online curriculum, some teacher-student communications and regular attendance reporting	Live online class meetings with complete national curriculum, student and teacher collaboration, and grade and engagement reporting
Access to Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio or TV in every community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one connected device per family All teachers have a connected device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers and all students have a connected device
Scenario Enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio or TV is used to broadcast basic national wide curriculum Option: when families have mobile phones, provide national attendance Form direct from EMIS via SMS, email, or mail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have access to recorded lectures and national digital curriculum content Teachers can assign work and communicate with the class Engagement in digital classwork automatically captured and reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live class meetings All curriculum and lectures available online Students' progress assessed online Students and teachers collaborate continuously Student grades and engagement reported
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance reporting not universal Only limited curriculum can be broadcast Uni-directional interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student connectivity and access still limited Teacher/student interaction not always 'real time' Relies on student and family motivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devices and connectivity expensive to deploy Teacher capacity-building will need to be ongoing
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quickest to deploy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More continuous student engagement with teachers and peers Teachers able to collaborate, use OER Teacher training can take place through Teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students fully interact in modern learning environment that can supplement physical schools and accelerate learning for all
Key parallel undertakings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telecom/device partners to expand access Establish digital identities for all teachers and students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital content providers, OER Teams deployed Local professional development partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft for reporting, data analytics

Basic Implementation

The engagement team for remote and hybrid learning will generally consist of the following roles and responsibilities:

- Project Lead to be the day to day manager of the project implementation, establishing clear expectations for what remote learning scenarios will and will not be enabled. Coordinates the Access, Device and Training Plans.
- IT/ EMIS expert to provide or develop “Basic Data” for creation of teacher and student O365 accounts, collaborate with Microsoft [FastTrack](#), manage distribution of logon credentials, and establish reporting permissions. This individual will also need to develop skills for the ongoing management of the O365/Teams platform.
- Curriculum Expert (optional) to map OER or other digital curriculum materials into the learning platform (e.g. O365), and coordinate and manage digital storage of those learning resources.
- Professional Development Expert to work with [Microsoft Training Partner](#) to create training strategy and cascade training across the country.

Timeline Outline

Week 1

- Overall scenario planning, identification of partner ecosystem.
- Access: Connectivity and Device Plans developed, with support from [Microsoft Airband Initiative](#).
- Platform: Submit requests to Microsoft [FastTrack](#) for set-up support. If SIS/EMIS Basic Data available, data transformed to School Data Sync format.
- Learning Resources: Digital curriculum content identified or planned. Training materials collected and training plan developed.
- Educator Development: Define remote learning pedagogical model and plan educator development. Collect and Localize Documents and Videos Related to training on the Pedagogical Model.

Week 2

- Access: Solutions and estimates developed; procurement requests made to funding sources (as necessary) or RFPs sent.
- Platform: Digital Identities and O365 Accounts Provisioned; send username and passwords to staff and teachers; training links included.
- Learning Resources: Curriculum content storage source connected to Teams for teacher access.
- Educator Development: Set up PLC Teams for Educators with Training Materials and Process. Share Basic Teams Training Videos with Tech Leads to send with Logon Instructions.

Week 3 to 4

- Access: Connectivity and device plans continue.
- Platform: Teams-based help desk established. School Leader and Teacher training webinars; teachers collaborate online in staff Teams; teachers prepare first lessons; students and families receive usernames, passwords, and initial training on using Teams.
- Learning Resources: Learning applications in local languages identified and connected to Teams.
- Educator Development: Train local educator champions. Champions manage local educator trainings via Teams.

Week 4 to 6

- Access: Connectivity and device solutions continue.
- Platform: Teachers collaborate with students via Teams, assign learning, support students using Teams.
- Learning Resources: Training for teachers on using learning resources continues.
- Educator Development: Champions and local educators conduct student and family trainings.
- Reporting: Student digital activity reports for teachers in Microsoft Teams and a new digital engagement analytics pilot for system leaders

Each of this plan are not necessarily interdependent. They are expected to proceed at different paces. The O365 Teams platform implementation can proceed without full connectivity of the whole country. Connected devices will take much longer to plan, fund, and deploy than the Teams Platform deployment and Learning Resources training. The intent is to support the system's Access goals, and get started on the road to full connectivity, to proceed with platform implementation and training to get those teachers and students who have connected devices teaching and learning as quickly as possible, and to extend to the whole system as quickly as possible.





Additional Assets

Making the transition to Remote Learning: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/remote-learning>

Microsoft Education Transformation <http://aka.ms/etf>

Microsoft Education Analytics: A Maturity Model
<https://edudownloads.azureedge.net/msdownloads/Microsoft-Education-Transformation.pdf>