

ECHO

South Dakota Council of the Teachers of English

May 2020



4 Guiding Questions for Effective Remote Collaboration

Working remotely is changing teaching, and it affects how school teams work together as well. Addressing these questions will help teams ensure that they're doing their best work.

By [Zachary Herrmann](#)
April 17, 2020
<https://www.edutopia.org/article/4-guiding-questions-effective-remote-collaboration>

Shelter-in-place, self-quarantine, and stay-at-home orders have created a new reality for educators, students, and families.

While the context of our work has changed, our mission to serve our communities remains. But working in this new reality is a significant challenge, particularly given the uncertainty, ambiguity, and isolation experienced by so many members of our communities. So how do we respond to these challenges? Much of our work as educators happens in teams. Teamwork has traditionally played a critical role in schools, and while many of us find ourselves physically isolated, our collaborative work with one another may be more important now than ever. To support your team—

WHAT WE DO NOW ECHOES IN ETERNITY.

— MARCUS AURELIUS

whether it be a team of teachers, administrators, or community members—during this transition, you may need to revisit some fundamental questions about who you are and what you are trying to do. Take time with your team to discuss fundamental questions related to purpose, people, process, and pride.

4 Fundamental Questions for Collaboration

1. **What's our team's purpose?** Teams may need to recalibrate their purpose to ensure that they're working on the right things at the right time. How has your purpose changed, and how has it stayed the same? What are your goals, and how will you measure success? How does your team's purpose relate to the purposes of other teams within your organization? If team members don't share a common understanding of their team's purpose, they're more likely to make decisions, take actions, or expend their time and energy on things that aren't critical and may even be in conflict with one another.

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SHOUT OUT TO ALL TEACHERS SURVIVING AND THRIVING DURING THIS PANDEMIC. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS WHO'VE SWITCHED TO VIRTUAL TEACHING ON A DIME. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS TREATING ALL KIDS AS THEIR OWN. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS TEACHING ONLINE WHILE SUPPORTING THEIR OWN KIDS' SCHOOLING. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS QUARANTINING ALONE. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS WHO KNOW KIDS' EMOTIONAL NEEDS ARE GREATER THAN EVER. SHOUT OUT TO THE TEACHERS WHO NEVER GOT TO HUG THEIR STUDENTS GOODBYE, BUT STILL FIND A WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH.

WE'VE GOT THIS!

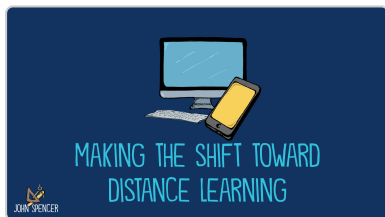
WE ARE TEACHERS

Continued on page 7

Download the May 2020 ECHO Below!



Practicing Self-Care During the Coronavirus: 5 Tips for Teachers By Brittney Newcomer, MS, LSSP



7 Big Ideas as You Shift Toward Online Teaching

spencerauthor.com

7 Tips for Remote Teaching
— LARRY FERLAZZO —

1. GRADING
FEEDBACK, NOT GRADES
OLD SCHOOL RULES (circled and crossed out)
DON'T DO IT! (in a starburst)

2. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
→ LEAD WITH LOVE, NOT LESSONS
→ CURRICULUM WITH CARE
ARE YOU OK? (in a speech bubble)

3. MINIMIZE SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE MEETINGS
BE MINDFUL of Different Needs, Abilities, and Availabilities!

4. NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL!
! MODIFICATIONS may be needed
! EQUITABLE ACCESS of computers/internet assumed

5. INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATION
OFFICE HOURS, VIDEO CHATS AS POSSIBLE, IF POSSIBLE

6. KEEP IT SIMPLE
2-3 sentence INSTRUCTIONS
MAX!
COGNITIVE BANDWIDTH
~~PLAN~~ PLAN IN HALF

7. OFFER GRACE
DEADLINES = ASPIRATIONAL vs. IN-STONE
assume BEST INTENTIONS → colleagues → students → parents → SELF

WENDI PILLARS @WENDI322

Larry Ferlazzo's 7 Tips for Remote Teaching

Larry Ferlazzo's 7 Tips for Remote Teaching

Educational Leadership - A New Reality Getting Remote Learning Right



EL_Special_Report_April_15_2020_2.pdf

ASCD - April 2020

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