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Tools for Supporting Digital Learning



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Introduction

VirtualSC's mission is to provide South Carolina students with flexible and rigorous online learning opportunities that will help them acquire the knowledge, skills, and characteristics necessary for college and career readiness.

Students in virtual classrooms have many of the same needs as students in face to face settings. Students need meaningful instruction, clear objectives, and frequent communication. The resources included in this guide can help teachers continue to provide eLearning support to students across our state.

Classroom Homepage

In a virtual classroom environment, it is important for students to have a one-stop shop for information. If teachers do not already have access to a learning management system, such as Google Classroom, Edmodo, or Schoology, creating a simple website where students and parents can stay informed and find useful resources is the easiest way to provide that stability. Weebly allows teachers to create fun and simple websites with just a few clicks.

- [Google Sites](#)
- [Weebly](#)
- [Wix](#)

Communication

Good communication is key in an online learning environment. Without the ability to have face-to-face interactions, students will need multiple contact options from their teachers. Emails and other written correspondence are perfect for mass communication, but students also need to hear their teachers' voices. Setting up a Google Voice account allows students and parents to maintain contact via phone without having to publish personal cell phone numbers. Teachers can utilize voice recorders, like Vocaroo, to record messages to individual students or to send out mass messages to all students and parents. Keeping the lines of communication open will be crucial to student success.

- [Calendly](#)
- [Google Voice](#)
- [Google Hangouts](#)
- [Poll Maker](#)
- [Remind](#)
- [Skype](#)
- [Vocaroo](#)

Live Learning Platforms

The lack of a face-to-face environment does not mean teachers can not interact with students in a “live” manner. Online meeting spaces can provide a place for teachers to connect with their classes as a whole. Jigsaw Interactive is an online classroom platform where students and teachers can interact through voice, video, and screen sharing.

- [Jigsaw Interactive](#)
- [SMART Learning Suite Online](#)
- [Zoom](#)

Accessibility Tools

When choosing resources for students, accessibility must always be considered. WAVE, a web accessibility evaluation tool from WebAIM, can assist teachers in ensuring websites are accessible for all students.

- [AlphaText](#)
- [NV Access Screen Reader](#)
- [WAVE](#)

Video & Instructional Tools

Online instruction gives teachers the opportunity to move away from traditional lectures and classroom structures. Using videos and interactive tools can bring an online classroom to life. The VirtualSC Video Portal is a repository in which teachers can find videos that introduce topics and that further explain critical concepts across all content areas.

- [Curiosity](#)
- [EdPuzzle](#)
- [Nearpod](#)
- [PBS Learning Media](#)
- [VirtualSC Video Portal](#)

Quiz Generators

In any classroom, monitoring students' grasp of concepts throughout the course is essential to ensuring they master content and skills prior to moving on. In a virtual setting, determining a student's understanding may require more frequent check-ins in the absence of nonverbal cues that teachers normally detect during face-to-face interactions. Creating fun and interactive quizzes can help bridge the gap in evaluating how students are progressing. Quizizz turns a quiz into a game where students can compete against classmates at their own pace and gives teachers the information they need about what students have learned.

- [Kahoot](#)
- [Quizizz](#)
- [Quizlet](#)
- [Socrative](#)

Rubric Generators

Clear instructions and expectations on assignments create a more positive learning experience for students and teachers. An easy way to convey those expectations is through a rubric. Tools like Quick Rubric and RubiStar make rubric creation simple and easy.

- [Quick Rubric](#)
- [RubiStar](#)

Research Tools

Fostering effective research skills continues to be a challenge, but with the abundance of resources available, teachers can easily give students a push in the right direction. In a virtual setting, it is important to give students the same structure and support they would receive in a face-to-face environment. Discus - South Carolina's Virtual Library gives students a safe place to explore and build their research skills with quality information.

- [Discus - South Carolina's Virtual Library](#)
- [KnowItAll](#)
- [Newsela](#)



VirtualSC Facilitated Tools

Virtual SC is committed to offering free online solutions. Online resources have revolutionized education, not only because they are convenient and accessible, but also because they make the entire process of teaching and learning more interesting and memorable.

The minimum requirements for students to use the resources below are access to a computer, the internet, and the motivation to succeed in a non-traditional classroom. Online courses provide an excellent method of course delivery, unbound by time or location and allowing for access to instruction at any time from anywhere.

For more information concerning the resources below please contact Sharon Dublin at swdublin@ed.sc.gov or (803) 734-3160.

Elementary Keyboarding

The Elementary Keyboarding Program supports personalized and customized keyboarding instruction and is free of charge to South Carolina students in grades K through 6. The primary objectives of the Elementary Keyboarding Program are:

- To provide instruction in alphabetic keyboarding to students in grades K-6.
- To provide instruction and practice in navigation through online open educational resources and activities.
- To provide an opportunity for students to compose paragraphs, short answers, or essay responses at the keyboard in a timely manner from writing prompts provided in the course.

EdReady

VirtualSC now offers free English language arts (ELA) and math skills recovery resources to middle and high schools. Both the ELA and math resources are standards-aligned, mastery-based, and provide a personalized learning experience based upon each student's current level of skill and understanding.

Hippocampus

[HippoCampus](#) is a growing repository of thousands of multimedia learning objects and is free to students and teachers in South Carolina. Students and teachers are able to view mini-lessons by clicking on the content area.

Shmoop

VirtualSC offers test preparation free-of-charge to any public, private, or home school student in the state of South Carolina whether they are enrolled in a VirtualSC course or not. Shmoop offers over 400 online courses, 10,000 videos, test prep programs, and more to ensure students don't skip a beat.

[Free Shmoop for Students and Teachers](#)

For more information on Shmoop please contact virtualsc@ed.sc.gov or (803) 734-8039.

Additional Resources

- [Amazing Educational Resources](#)
A crowd-sourced list of educational resources compiled by the educational community.
- [Free and Open Educational Resources](#)
VirtualSC-approved resources free to South Carolina teachers and students.

