



# Indiana Department of Education

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Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Office of Educator Licensing  
Office of Higher Education and Educator Preparation Programs

Date: March 1, 2021

Subject: Approval of Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching

Educator Standards for Virtual Instruction were initially adopted by the State Board of Education in April 2012. As virtual instruction and digital learning have evolved over the last ten years, it was determined that these standards needed to be updated to reflect national trends and current terminology. Educators and experts from around the state participated in the review and update. A draft of the revised standards was posted 30 days for public comment and the committee considered and incorporated suggestions received during this comment period as appropriate. In addition to the updated standards, the committee also recommends the name should be changed to the Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching to reflect the expanded reach of the standards.

Instructors in digital learning environments are expected to have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the knowledge and skills outlined in the Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching. Knowledge and skills in these areas will help educators develop high-quality digital learning experiences for their students regardless of the modality and enable them to shift along the digital learning continuum as-needed (remote, blended, hybrid, etc.).

While these standards have typically served as the underpinnings of educator preparation programs, due to the current environment the committee recommends use for the following target audiences:

- Schools of Education to design new or refine existing pre-service programs.
- Professional development providers to design new or refine existing professional development opportunities for in-service teachers.
- K-12 Administrators to guide teachers in the development of knowledge and skills related to teaching in digital environments.
- K-12 Educators to reflect on their practice and identify areas for future professional growth.

The IDOE recommends approval of the updated Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching.



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# Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching

Digital Learning refers to "any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience and encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices" (ESSA, 2015). High-quality digital learning experiences can take place in a variety of modalities including:

- Remote Learning - digital learning experiences where student and teacher are separated by space and possibly time
- Blended Learning - digital learning experiences are incorporated into the traditional classroom setting
- Hybrid Approach - a combination of the two above

Instructors in digital learning environments are expected to have a broad and comprehensive understanding of the knowledge and skills outlined in the Educator Standards for Blended and Online Teaching. Knowledge and skills in these areas will help educators develop high-quality digital learning experiences for their students regardless of the modality and enable them to shift along the digital learning continuum as-needed (remote, blended, hybrid, etc.).

These standards are intended for use by the following target audiences:

- Schools of Education to design new or refine existing pre-service programs.
- Professional development providers to design new or refine existing professional development opportunities for in-service teachers.
- K-12 Administrators to guide teachers in the development of knowledge and skills related to teaching in digital environments.
- K-12 Educators to reflect on their practice and identify areas for future professional growth.

**March 2021**

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# Glossary

**Asynchronous Learning** - self-paced and not strictly bound by time. Educators can deliver content and assignments remotely.

**Blended Learning** - The term “[blended learning](#)” means a formal education program that leverages both [technology](#)-based and face-to-face instructional approaches—

- a. that include an element of online or [digital learning](#), combined with supervised learning time, and student-led learning, in which the elements are connected to provide an integrated learning experience; and
- b. in which students are provided some control over time, path, or pace.

**Digital Learning** - [Digital Learning](#) refers to "any instructional practice that effectively uses [technology](#) to strengthen a student's learning experience and encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices" (ESSA, 2015).

High-quality digital learning experiences can take place in a variety of modalities including:

- Remote Learning - student and teacher are separated by space and possibly time
- Blended Learning - digital learning experiences are incorporated into the traditional classroom setting
- Hybrid Approach - a combination of the two above

**Digital Citizenship** - a person who develops the skills and knowledge to effectively use the internet and other digital technology, especially in order to participate responsibly in social and civic activities.

**Digital Literacy** - the ability to find, evaluate, share, and create content using the internet (Gilster, 1997; Spires & Bartlett, 2012; Bates, 2014).

**Face-to-Face Learning** - refers to in-person learning, typically taking place at the physical location of a school.

**Online Learning** - a form of remote instruction that takes place using the internet and other digital tools. This can take place synchronously or asynchronously.

**Synchronous Learning** - learning occurs live and in real time. Synchronous learning can take place in-person or remotely.

## Standard 1: Learning Environments

Instructors have a broad understanding of the continuum of learning environments, understand the pedagogical shifts necessary when moving between multiple environments, and demonstrate the ability to establish highly interactive, collaborative, productive, inclusive and safe online and blended learning environments. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

1.1	Apply knowledge of the continuum of learning environments (e.g., face-to-face, blended, online), and adapt learning experiences and instruction to each environment.
1.2	Establish communication procedures for maintaining a consistent presence (e.g., welcome calls and emails, webinars, blog postings, office hours, text messages), facilitate class discussions (e.g., videoconferencing, discussion forum, co-creation etc.), and establish procedures for connecting with the instructor.
1.3	Establish, facilitate, and monitor student-student collaboration that are goal-oriented, focused, project-based, and/or inquiry-based.(e.g.,co-creation)
1.4	Develop and implement course management plans (e.g., tracking student enrollments, communication logs, attendance records), implement a plan for students to access course materials, and develop a supportive learning environment.
1.5	Design learning environments (e.g., synchronous and/or asynchronous) that demonstrate an understanding of diversity in learning and apply knowledge of culturally responsive practices to communicate effectively.

## Standard 2: Learner Engagement

Instructors have a broad understanding of instructional planning and delivery in online and blended learning environments and demonstrate the ability to deliver individualized instruction that creates rich and meaningful learning experiences, makes effective use of online resources, and helps all students achieve learning goals. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

2.1	Utilize strategies for engaging all students, including those who are struggling. (e.g., creating a relationship of trust; using a range of communication methods; supporting independence, creativity, and collaboration; encouraging active participation).
2.2	Implement strategies for students' motivation by facilitating students' progress, helping students manage time and work space, promoting learner interaction, and providing strong support to promote successful course completion.
2.3	Promote student independence and agency by encouraging students to define learning goals, monitor their progress, and share their perceptions of how they are learning, and create opportunities for student self-assessment.

## Standard 3: Instructional Design

Instructors have a broad understanding of existing and emerging technologies that support student learning, engagement, and success and demonstrate the ability to use a variety of tools for content development and instructional delivery, facilitation, collaboration, and communication in online and blended learning environments. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

3.1	Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences in designing instruction across the continuum of learning environments (e.g., face-to-face, blended, and online).
3.2	Create student-centered learning experiences by implementing culturally responsive, research-based instructional design strategies and best practices (e.g., course site, calendar, modules, synchronous and asynchronous activities, discussion boards).
3.3	Implement strategies for designing online and blended courses (e.g., assessing student needs and resources; developing or modifying a clear, specific online syllabus; using online resources effectively; establishing appropriate milestones and deadlines).
3.4	Apply knowledge of culturally responsive instructional approaches that are appropriate for online and blended instruction; facilitate learning experiences that encourage communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking; and apply current best practices.
3.5	Design and implement activities and assignments (e.g., lessons, discussions, labs, simulations, individual and group projects) that are interactive; integrate digital media, online content, and offline resources; provide multiple paths for learning experiences; and promote independent learning and collaboration.
3.6	Apply knowledge of learning management systems (LMSs), productivity software (e.g., word processors, Web browsers, presentation software), and digital resources, and use these tools in planning, developing, managing, and delivering instruction.

## Standard 4: Assessment and Measurement

Instructors have a broad understanding of online assessment practices and demonstrate the ability to use a variety of online assessments to monitor student progress and guide instruction in online and blended courses. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

4.1	Create iterative and interactive feedback strategies to provide students and families with timely, specific, constructive, and personalized responses using a variety of methods and communication tools.
4.2	Monitor student progress and course effectiveness, including the interpretation and appropriate use of observational data in online and blended courses (e.g., tracking data, time on task, e-mail); providing timely and effective feedback and communication; and modifying instruction to meet student needs.
4.3	Utilize fundamental concepts related to assessment, including ongoing evaluation, formative and summative assessments, alignment of assessment to student learning outcomes/goals, and opportunities for self-reflection or assessment of teaching effectiveness (e.g., peer reviews, teacher evaluations).
4.4	Provide students with opportunities to demonstrate understanding and acquired knowledge and skills by using tools for authentic and performance-based assessment (e.g., written assignments, simulation and games, individual and collaborative projects, portfolios).
4.5	Implement online assessments that ensure data integrity, validity, reliability, and the security of student data.

## Standard 5: Diverse & Equitable Instruction

Instructors have a broad understanding of the diversity of students in online and blended environments and demonstrate the ability to provide instruction that is responsive to student differences and that promotes active learning for all students. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

5.1	Identify types of student diversity (e.g., cultural, economic, and linguistic background; gender; religion; family structure; exceptionalities) and identify student needs in order to promote learning, collaboration, and interaction for all students.
5.2	Determine appropriate strategies for individualizing instruction to meet students' diverse abilities and needs.
5.3	Describe digital equity issues and implement strategies for accommodating students with differing levels of access to technology resources (e.g., high-speed Internet, desktop and laptop computers, communication tools).
5.4	Apply knowledge of the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and adaptive and assistive technologies and use appropriate tools and technologies to support effective instruction in support of diverse student populations, including students with exceptionalities and English Learners.

## Standard 6: Digital Pedagogy

Instructors have a broad understanding of instructional planning and delivery in online and blended learning environments and demonstrate the ability to deliver individualized instruction that creates rich and meaningful learning experiences, makes effective use of online resources, and helps all students achieve learning goals. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

6.1	Implement culturally responsive and evidence-based best practices related to online and blended learning and continuously investigate and innovate with emerging technologies.
6.2	Identify current technologies (e.g., hardware, software, and communication tools) and utilize these technologies in planning and facilitating online and blended learning, as well as interacting with students, parents, guardians, and other stakeholders.
6.3	Incorporate digital tools to design and facilitate collaborative learning opportunities for students.
6.4	Apply basic troubleshooting skills, provide basic technical support to students and parents/guardians, and forward technical issues to support teams as appropriate.



## Standard 7: Digital Citizenship

Instructors understand societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and exhibit legal and ethical behavior in their professional practices. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

7.1	Model and promote digital citizenship and digital literacy; convey expectations for students to understand copyright laws, intellectual property policies, and fair use standards; and educate students about cybersecurity and cyberbullying.
7.2	Establish and effectively communicate clear expectations for academic integrity, identify risks for academic dishonesty in online and blended learning environments, and utilize strategies for recognizing the authenticity of student work and intervening in incidents of academic dishonesty.
7.3	Apply state and federal privacy standards (e.g., the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA]) and utilize strategies to effectively communicate privacy rules to students and family members.
7.4	Demonstrate information literacy skills (e.g., defining inquiry, evaluating sources of information, synthesizing information from multiple sources) and use this knowledge to prepare students for participation in the global community.

## Standard 8: Professional Responsibilities

Instructors have a broad understanding of their professional environment and demonstrate the ability to collaborate with others, model digital citizenship, follow legal and ethical guidelines specific to online and blended learning environments, and engage in continuous professional growth. Instructors in online and blended learning environments do the following:

8.1	Create safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments (e.g., setting expectations for student-instructor interaction, student-student interaction, and student-content interaction) and establish and maintain instructor response times.
8.2	Establish and maintain ongoing, frequent, and professional partnerships with various stakeholders (e.g., with parents/guardians, mentors, learning coaches, and local school contacts) involved in students' success.
8.3	Establish and maintain a professional work environment; develop skills to digitally collaborate with colleagues and other adults; and establish a professional work routine and effectively manage essential tasks.
8.4	Engage in ongoing professional learning activities appropriate for instructors who teach in online and blended environments, including technological pedagogical knowledge and current practices, and participate in an ongoing professional development cycle (eg.,targeting digital teaching and learning).

# Selected Bibliography of Standards and Sources Related to Digital Instruction

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# Alignment of Educator Standards with National Standards

<b>Indiana Digital Teaching Educator Standards</b>	<b>ISTE National Educational Technology Standards 2017</b>	<b>NSQ National Standards for Quality Online Teaching</b>
<p><b><u>Standard 1: Learning Environments</u></b>            Instructors in digital learning environments have a broad understanding of the continuum of learning environments, understand the pedagogical shifts necessary when moving between multiple environments, and demonstrate the ability to establish highly interactive, collaborative, productive, inclusive and safe online and blended learning environments.</p>	<p><b>5c; 6a-6c</b></p>	<p><b>C1-C5</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 2: Learner Engagement</u></b>            Instructors have a broad understanding of instructional planning and delivery in online and blended learning environments and demonstrate the ability to deliver individualized online and blended instruction that creates rich and meaningful learning experiences, makes effective use of online resources, and helps all students achieve learning goals.</p>	<p><b>6a-6d; 7a</b></p>	<p><b>D1-D7</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 3: Instructional Design</u></b>            Instructors have a broad understanding of existing and emerging technologies that support student learning, engagement, and success and demonstrate the ability to use a variety of tools for content development and instructional delivery, facilitation, collaboration, and communication in online and blended learning environments.</p>	<p><b>4b-4c; 5a-5c; 6b-6d</b></p>	<p><b>H1-H6</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 4: Assessment and Measurement</u></b>            Instructors have a broad understanding of online assessment practices and demonstrate the ability to use a variety of online assessments to monitor student progress and guide instruction in online and blended courses.</p>	<p><b>2a; 7a-7c</b></p>	<p><b>G1-G8</b></p>

<p><b><u>Standard 5: Diverse &amp; Equitable Instruction</u></b>  Instructors have a broad understanding of the diversity of students in online and blended courses and demonstrate the ability to provide online and blended instruction that is responsive to student differences and that promotes active learning for all students.</p>	<p><b>5a;2a-2c</b></p>	<p><b>F1-F7</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 6: Digital Pedagogy</u></b>  Instructors have a broad understanding of instructional planning and delivery in online and blended learning environments and demonstrate the ability to deliver individualized online and blended instruction that creates rich and meaningful learning experiences, makes effective use of online resources, and helps all students achieve learning goals.</p>	<p><b>1a-1c; 5a-5c</b></p>	<p><b>B1-B5</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 7: Digital Literacy/Citizenship</u></b>  Instructors understand societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and exhibit legal and ethical behavior in their professional practices.</p>	<p><b>3a-3d</b></p>	<p><b>E1-E4</b></p>
<p><b><u>Standard 8: Professional Responsibilities</u></b>  Instructors have a broad understanding of their professional environment and demonstrate the ability to collaborate with others, model digital citizenship, follow legal and ethical guidelines specific to online and blended learning environments, and engage in continuous professional growth.</p>	<p><b>1b-1c; 2b; 3c-3d; 4a; 4d;</b></p>	<p><b>A1-A9</b></p>