Aaron Smith, PhD.
Changing the way we look at education.

Are You Ready for Distance Learning?

Mark each box based upon whether your class, your school or your district is ready to start the new school year.

Criterion	Unacceptable 0 Points	Needs More Developing 1 Point	Acceptable, But Not Perfect 2 Points	Best Case Scenario 3 Points
Technology Infrastructure				
There is a plan to eliminate the digital divide?	There is no plan.	The plan has many factors thus limiting the implementation.	A wide scale plan to implement devices and hotspots have been created. But tech support could hinder optimization	All students and staff members have access to the lessons. Tech support is available to all.
The platform that teachers use provides the ability for all to access and utilize without issues.	The platform is outdated or fragmented. A good amount of frustration exists.	Some features of the platform can accelerate the teaching and learning. However, developers and school officials need to discuss what key improvements should be made.	Overall, the platform work with occasional issues. Staff members have been trained to use it but are limited in terms of creativity when sending lessons to students. Most students can work in the platform but have problems learning in some subjects.	The platform used has become a favorite because of its easiness. Support is available from the company and the school district. Staff members can develop imaginative ways to teach. Students find the platform easy to use.
Instruction Planning & Delivery				
Neurodiverse and English Language Learners have accommodations and resources available.	Accommodations and supports are only available at school.	There is a limited amount of resources available that barely meets IEP/504 requirements.	Staff members have developed specific lessons for students to assist them. They are available.	True collaboration teaching occurs online between a general education teacher and a specialist teacher. Together they map out specific plans for every child in the classroom that will measure their success frequently.

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Staff members have the accessibility and opportunity to create lessons by experimenting with new software, apps, or websites.	The computer is locked down. Teachers have to stick with the choices made by the tech team.	Suggestions for removing firewalls can be requested. Some apps and software can be installed but only after the techs have vetted it.	Staff members can create and design unique learning situations. However, the platform used hinders the implementation	The platform accelerates the chance for staff members to design state of the art lessons specifically designed for online learning.
Engagement Through Communication				
Staff members can engage with students during class time and outside of class time.	Engagement with students can take place only at the designated time of the class.	Students and parents can communicate with staff members through traditional means (phone, Zoom, email).	Students have additional options to receive assistance when needed. However it can only be done through constraints such as after school tutoring.	Online chats, group discussions cobbled with a plethora of resources make it possible for children and parents to learn.
Parents can communicate with schools.	Engagement with staff can take place only at the designated time and days.	Parents can communicate with staff members through traditional means (phone, Zoom, email).	Families use the school division's website for additional information. Teachers can adjust their schedules and options to work with parents and their concerns.	Every parent can speak with teachers, office staff and other school personnel to acquire specific information promptly. FAQs and other sources help to ensure clear and consistent communication.
Schools and staff send out notifications regarding operations and instruction	Little to no advanced communication makes it irritating for guiding parents to help their children learn.	Advanced information is provided, but unclear information is relayed making families struggle to get all the facts.	Advanced notice with clear information provides members in the community and families the facts they need to know. However, parents have trouble finding it again or is not updated from the original feed.	Clear, easy to understand information is sent out through a venue of sources where input from students and staff helps to verify.
Keeping Schools Safe for Students and Staff				

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Criterion	Unacceptable 0 Points	Needs More Developing 1 Point	Acceptable, But Not Perfect 2 Points	Best Case Scenario 3 Points
There is a plan to keep all students and staff safe.	The plan does not address major threats to prevent the virus from becoming wide-spread.	Major components for safety are addressed as required by localities and the Center for Disease Control.	A concerted effort to think through of all possible scenarios for the virus has been considered. No alternate plans have been constructed.	Continuous monitoring of the plans in place to keep students and staff as safe as possible are in place. Multiple alternative plans with resources are readily available should there be a change.

Tallying the Results

Range	Result
17-21	Major strides are put in place to assist children. Some minor adjustments may be needed, but otherwise keep monitoring and improve.
16-12	Adjustments are strongly recommended in identified areas. Conduct an analysis, gather options and input and update.
12 – 8	Major restructuring must take place. Several areas need a major overhaul.
7-0	Make Distance Learning the top priority. Designate all resources to bring forth much needed change.

Action Plan

Time Span	Action Item(s)
Short Range (1 – 3 months)	
Mid-Range (4 – 6 months)	
Long Range (7 – 9 months)	