



## Coaching and mentoring in a virtual world: What to keep and what to change

January 28, 2021

Link to slides: <https://learningforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Webinar-1-28-21.pdf>

### Contact info for the panelists:

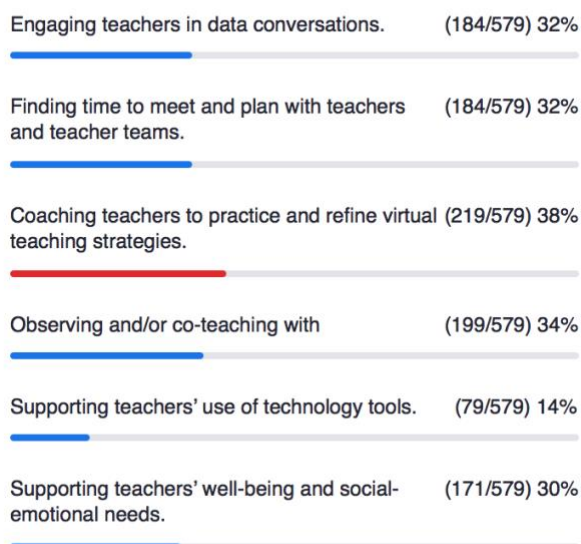
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### Learning Forward resources:

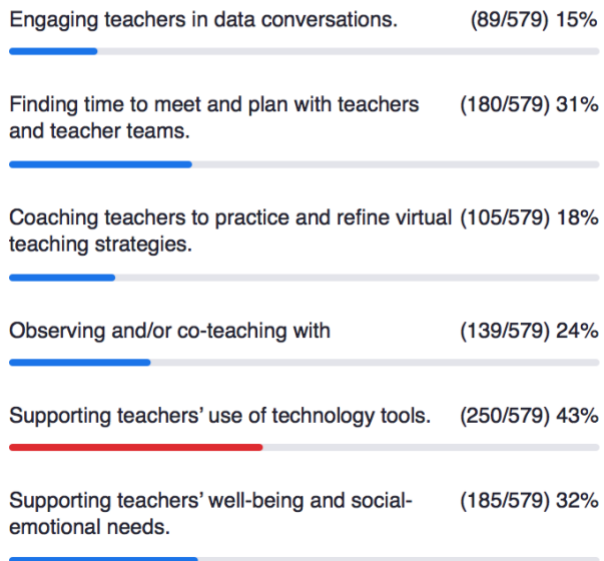
- [Supporting coaches and mentors through our professional services](#)
- [The Learning Professional: Building the Pipeline](#)
- [Professional Learning State and District Planner](#)
- [Learning Forward webinars](#)
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### Check-In Poll Results

**1. Which of these coaching/mentoring actions have you most struggled with when supporting teachers virtually?(Multiple Choice)**



**2. Which of these actions do you feel you've been most successful with in supporting teachers virtually?(Multiple Choice)**



**Participants' suggestions and resources:**

- Go to <https://nsrfharmony.org/>. They offer free protocols and those specific to trained coaches. This has been by far the best professional development for being a coach in-tune with teachers and administrators.
- Here are our mentoring resources (Ontario) <https://sites.google.com/view/mentoringforall>
- Kept the popsicle sticks in a flowerpot! Now I use Nearpod (<https://nearpod.com/>)!
- [Wheel of Names](#) is a great resource. [Class DoJo](#) has a Random Selector as well.
- You can use [Jamboard](#) or [Pear Deck](#) for students to respond.
- [Desmos](#) works great for math.
- I have seen teachers use a CHAT BLAST - give everyone a chance to think and everyone hit enter to submit their thought at the same time. Allows the teacher to see quick understanding and engages all.
- Kids in the classroom and online can co-construct [Jamboards](#).
- I tell my coaches that we have to walk alongside our teachers rather than always in front.
- There's no substitute for 1'1 meetings, especially during this time.

- Our coaches are joining grade level teams to add valued support - and watch for those who may be struggling - to find follow-up compassion and care.
- Guidance counselors and auxiliary staff can also be part of student support.
- I've used [Flippity](#) for a name wheel.
- <https://seidlitzblog.org/2019/03/27/gssa-more-than-turn-talk/>
- <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/random-name-pickers/>
- I would suggest [Cognitive Coaching SM Foundation Seminar](#) to build a strong foundation of coaching skills & addressing the identity of a coach; it's eight days of training. Learning Forward also offers something called [Coaches Academy](#).
- [NIET.org](#) right now is providing tools for administrators, coaches and teachers. The main tool, the Virtual SCTS 4.0, is the rubric used for coaching and 'evaluating' teachers. It's a tool created by teachers for teachers. They are offering free workshops right now. The link is for principals and instructional coaches to register for the session if interested. <https://forms.gle/tpsGtgeoXL64KrxGA>
- When observing, I collect data for the teacher using the acronym IRAQ (Information, Resources, Activities, Questions). It helps them to really see what all is taking place during a lesson. Great conversation starters for supporting them as they reflect and grow. Data speaks volumes!
- I tell teachers to give themselves grace.
- This is great and has timers, randomizers, etc. We use it in Learning Forward Texas virtual sessions all the time: Link to Classroom Screen: <https://classroomscreen.com/>
- I worked with our coaches to create a system for virtual coaching. The structure uses agreements, high/low visibility cues, and cognitive closure coaching moves.
- Consider using the TRU observation guide and adapting the questions for reflective discussions on virtual classrooms.

**Participants' responses to panelists' comments and strategies:**

- In my district, we do have a coaches group from all different areas. We meet to discuss and plan how we do what we do. The HOW of coaching as opposed to what we coach. It has been very helpful. I use Learning Forward to help our group.
- I became a Certified Critical Friend's Coach a few years ago. I and my colleagues coached from the district level. We often spent time coaching each other and honing our skills. It's one of the best experiences I have ever had. It grew me as a coach.
- I oversee three coaches and professional development is necessary for us to be on the same page.
- I coach coaches and I love it! I also learn from them, so it is great for both of us!



- In District of Columbia Public Schools, we have a team of content specific managers that coach the coaches at our priority schools.
- We have elementary, secondary and tech levels of PLC as well as individual coaching for coaches with the director of curriculum or assistant superintendent. I don't know how we would survive without these structures during the shift in teaching and learning!
- Our teachers are still using the equity sticks.
- A great point on using several digital tools to provide predictability and familiarity to students.
- Great reminder Leighann--we don't need to be the expert! To help others feel comfortable with vulnerability we have to be vulnerable about what we do not know.
- If educator's social emotional needs are not being met, they are not going to be able to support their students' needs.
- Amazing how many adults have not been working on coping skills. We all need help!
- "Glows" before "Grows" is important during this time. What we model for our staff can help with transfer to the classroom.
- Many of my new teachers are stronger in technology than some of our veteran teachers - and certainly ahead of me! I have them helping their colleagues become comfortable with some of the platforms and tools. It's been an awesome experience for them.
- I decided to teach a course in my high school this year... has been the best thing I could do for my colleagues. As a coach, I have that ability to model tech, lessons, etc. with students. This has caused many veteran teachers to seek my aid in both lesson development and tech use.
- YES! I love how you phrased that -- Coaching En Comunidad!
- The openness of allowing video observations has been one of the best things for us that has come out of this. Teachers have been much more open to building that trust and relationship.
- QSSSA (Question, Sentence, Signal, Share, Assess) is a great strategy!