Founded in 1975, the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJCLD) is a national committee of representatives of organizations committed to the education and welfare of individuals with learning disabilities.

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Digital Learning: Meeting the Needs of Students with Learning Disabilities including Dyslexia

Discussion Points

- Understand the roles of decision-makers in deciding the components of a digital option.
- Learn aspects of digital delivery required for successful outcomes for students with LD/Dyslexia in both core classes and remedial instruction.
- Learn to incorporate and implement accommodations in digital learning for students with LD/Dyslexia.

A Year Like No Other

April 6, 2020: Governor Hutchinson closed schools in Arkansas.
June 10, 2020: Governor Hutchinson announced schools would re-open in the fall.
July 9, 2020: Governor Hutchinson delayed the start of school.
August 24, 2020: Schools in Arkansas reopened to in-person instruction.
Digital Learning is Here to Stay

Nationally, about one in five districts have already adopted, plan to adopt, or are considering adopting virtual school as part of their district portfolio after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Arkansas, over 60% of our schools have applied for approval of a digital learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

Three Essential Elements

- Interaction
- Delivery
- Platforms
Success Factors of Digital Learning: CMS

Top three factors
1. Content availability (89.3%)
2. Content of high quality (87.7%)
3. Content that is easy to use (86.2%)

(13th Annual International Technology, Education and Development Conference, 2019)
Factors That Affect Success

- Age
- Independence
- Executive Function
- Attention Span

Best Practices

- Explicitly teach expectations and engagement.
- Know when to utilize synchronous versus asynchronous learning.
- Assign note-takers.
- Make materials accessible.
- Embrace your students as teachers.
- Actively build a supportive community.

Accommodations

- Allow students to slow down the rate or pace of content provided
- Incorporate assistive technology programs and devices
- Realize there is a great variance in the academic performance of students with LD.
- Align text with depth of cognitive load.
- Allow for alternative methods of demonstrating proficiency.
Accommodations

- Understand that real time chat sessions and lectures may need to be augmented.
- Provide exam formats in the student’s most successful modality or response format.
- Offer one-on-one “office hours” or tutorials.

Guiding Principles for Educators

- Connect with students emotionally.
- Schedule time together as a class and individually.
- Communicate frequently with parents and families.
- Collaborate with your team members.
- Monitor progress closely.

Resources

National Center for Learning Disabilities
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Reality

If our student are going to be college and career ready, we must prepare them for the situations they are going to face. Online learning is highly utilized in higher education and the workplace. We must prepare our students for this reality.

Questions?

Thank you!

We appreciate your feedback.

https://tinyurl.com/NJCLDSUM21