

# Choosing and Using Virtual Tutoring Platforms



NATIONAL STUDENT  
SUPPORT ACCELERATOR

*equalizing access to quality tutoring*

# What to Consider

- What is a Virtual Tutoring Platform?
- Why Use a Virtual Tutoring Platform?
- What Common Problems Should I Consider?
- How Do I Choose a Virtual Tutoring Platform For My Program?
- How Do I Facilitate Effective Virtual Sessions As a Tutor?



# What is a Virtual Tutoring Platform?

- Online conferencing system that facilitates tutoring
- Ex. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, BigBlueButton, GoBoard



# Why Use a Virtual Tutoring Platform?

- Tutors can help students regardless of their physical location
- Safe, cost-effective option
- Easier to scale
- Wider pool of qualified tutors
- Help students in more regions
- Create easier access to individualized learning



# What Common Problems Should I Consider?

- Accountability



- Connection



- Time Crunch



# How Do I Choose a Virtual Tutoring Platform for My Program?

*Platform Capabilities: What core capabilities does your platform need to have?  
How will students access sessions?*

- Live video conferencing
- Live text chat with direct messaging
- Collaborative digital whiteboard
- Two-way screen-sharing
- Real-time document collaboration
- Recording
- Asynchronous delivery
- Accessibility
- Role-based access controls



# How Do I Choose a Virtual Tutoring Platform for My Program? (Cont.)

*Platform Considerations: How can I choose the best platform from among the fully-functional options?*

- How much specialized training will tutors and students need to use all the platform's useful features?
- Is the software's interface intuitive for both students and tutors to navigate?
- Will infrastructure limitations (such as slow internet connections or old devices) prevent students from using the software at school or at home?



# How Do I Facilitate Effective Virtual Sessions as a Tutor?

## *Tutor Preparation*

- Use your best tech
- Know your platform
- Be engaging
- Get there early and stay on-task
- Keep the time





# How Do I Facilitate Effective Virtual Sessions as a Tutor? (Cont.)

## *Student Preparation*

- Get to square one
- Stick to a schedule
- Set norms early
- Keep interfaces consistent
- Show, don't tell
- Step by step



# How Do I Facilitate Effective Virtual Sessions as a Tutor? (Cont.)

## *Presenting Content*

- Practice makes perfect
- Create structure
- Outline your game plan
- Make your thinking visible
- Mix up the medium
- Present multimedia yourself
- Provide additional resources



# How Do I Facilitate Effective Virtual Sessions as a Tutor? (Cont.)

## *Interactive Content*

- Wait for it
- Student voices first
- Multiple methods
- Check for understanding
- Don't just talk
- Watch them work
- Give specific feedback
- Make progress visible
- Purposeful pairing





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**For more information, access the complete collection of National Student Support Accelerator tutoring tools at:**

**<https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/tool-appendix>**

# Slide-Specific Links

Choosing and Using Virtual Tutoring Platforms:

<https://studentsupportaccelerator.org/tutoring/instruction/session-facilitation/choosing-and-using-virtual-tutoring-platforms>