There are endless apps and websites dedicated to education. Many districts have specific tools that they recommend and supply. Always start with tools that you are confident with. When you are comfortable try something new.

Here is a list of tech tools that are free during the COVID19 crisis.

**Tips for teaching through the wire**

**Digital Equity**

Our first priority in a distance education setting is ensuring all students have access to the necessary resources, digital or otherwise. We cannot expect accountability or compliance if our student population cannot access their work.

**Schedule Student Check-in’s**

To promote accountability and manage stress, we have to stay in touch. Our audience must know that we are available and accessible. Employ a variety of approaches to connecting with students: emails, phone calls, video chats, reminders, LMS, etc.

**Planning and Prep**

Uploaded worksheets may not get the desired result we are looking for. Our audience has a lot of distractions at home, so our lessons have to reflect a diverse approach to learning while enabling independent learning. Check out this introduction to online learning!

**Choose Your Tools**

There are endless apps and websites dedicated to education. Many districts have specific tools that they recommend and supply. Always start with tools that you are confident with. When you are comfortable try something new. Here is a list of tech tools that are free during the COVID19 crisis.

**Clear Communication**

Communicating over distance can be challenging when we no longer have a direct connection to our students. Review your instructions and consider them from the perspective of a student or parent. Ensure that they are clear and precise in terms of your expectations.

**Be Flexible**

Recognize that everyone is experiencing world changing events. Moving to a digital classroom is not an easy task and no experience will be perfect. This is a great opportunity though to humanize ourselves and connect with our students through and beyond our curriculum standards.
**Digital Assessment Tools**

**Kahoot**
A game-based classroom response system for administering quizzes in a synchronous environment.

**Google Forms**
Great tool for evaluating student performance through surveys, quizzes and tests with built in spreadsheet support.

**Poll Everywhere**
A synchronous dynamic online polling platform that allows students to vote on custom teacher-generated polls through text messaging (SMS), smartphone, or computer.

**edpuzzle**
Digital video teaching and assessment tool allowing teachers to build and assess lessons tied to existing or new video content.
Content Creation Tools

**Canva**
Design tool that offers users the opportunity to create professional-looking posters, slideshows, images, event flyers, resumes, certificates, infographics, and other media.

**Scratch**
Scratch is a free visual programming language (block based) designed especially for ages 8 to 16 but is used by people of all ages. It is web-based which means it works with Chromebooks or any laptop with a browser or can be downloaded as an offline application.

**Screencastify**
Chrome browser extension that allows you to capture and record your computer screen/webcam to create instructional videos for your students.
**Communication and Management Tools**

**Lino**
Asynchronous "Sticky Note" service that offers bulletin boards, where students can post ideas, responses, etc.

**Trello**
Collaboration platform that gives teams the ability to work on projects asynchronously. Trello has lots of built in features to support project organization and communication.

Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom, Canvas, Schoology, etc) serve as the hub for most distance learning platforms allowing teachers to host assignments, collect grades, communicate with students, etc. Out of all the tools shared, a Learning Management System should be the first you employ.
PhET simulations are interactive simulations across concepts from both science and math. Allowing students to manipulate virtual experiments and observe outcomes.

Online curriculum platform that is accessible during the pandemic. It contains lessons, activities and resources for a variety of content areas.

Looking for content for students to read? Take a look at Newsela to get articles with questions and writing prompts aligned with common core standards.

While desmos is a web-based calculator and graphing resource, it also has built in activities that are gamified to encourage student participation!