ENVISIONING EDUCATION IN A WORLD WITH COVID-19

LEARNING GOALS

- To think critically about how high school education can and should change in a world with COVID-19.
- To consider the comprehensive impact of COVID-19 on education, including students' access to instruction, meals, and other school resources.
- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.

ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~20 min
- Watch: "Expert Answers: How Do We Educate Children During the Coronavirus Pandemic?" (~ 7 min.)
- Read: "Covid-19 in India: Education disrupted and lessons learned" (~5 min.)
- Read: "DOE Chief: Distance Learning Will Still Fit A Need Once Classrooms Reopen" (~7 min.)

Although these resources are from April 2020, much of the content is still relevant.

TERMINOLOGY

- **Distance Learning** - educational instruction provided via technology or other means, rather than in-person
- **Digital Divide -** discrepancies in students' access to education-related technology and Internet services

KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to Kahoot.it or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 09566653
- Or, use this link

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What factors might determine students' access to education during the pandemic?
- According to the World Bank video, there have been prior national challenges to providing education to students. Why does the current pandemic pose such significant and unique challenges?
- Do you think the lessons learned regarding distance learning strategies in India are applicable to Hawaii? Is Hawaii addressing these issues, and if so, how?
- Educators and administrators are worried that students who are not engaged in distance learning may not return to school once in-person instruction resumes. How can we connect with these students and ensure that school enrollment does not drop?
- What support could be provided to parents who are trying to help their children learn from home, and who should provide this support?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (continued)

- How would you evaluate our state's response and your school's response to the pandemic? Has it improved over time? Where is it succeeding? Where is it falling short? How can it improve?
- What role or responsibility do students have in the this pandemic, especially as it relates to their education?
- Where does education go from here? Under what circumstances can we return to in-person learning, if at all? How do you see education changing for the long-term?

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Easier
- Educate yourself: talk to teachers about their experiences during distance learning and the biggest challenges they experienced with regard to connecting with and educating their students.

Medium
- Tutor: reach out to your local elementary or middle school to see what volunteer opportunities exist to tutor younger students who may have fallen behind on their school work.
- Spread awareness: give a class presentation on potential solutions schools could adopt to make distance learning more accessible to all students while still providing quality education.
- Research more about students' unequal access to distance learning, and write to your school board or city council on what you think should be done to decrease the digital divide.

Hard
- Policy advocacy: research bills in the city council and state legislature on measures to promote technology or increase access to technology in schools. Write and submit testimony.
- Start a fundraiser to raise money to help supply local schools with technology so students can better adapt to distance learning in the future, if the need ever arises again.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Read: Educators Worry About Kids With No Computers As Online Classes Start from Honolulu Civil Beat
- Read: How Countries Across Latin America Use Technology During Covid19- Driven School Closure A brief summary of initiatives by Latin American countries to utilize technology during the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020.

HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard SS.WH.8.12.1
- Content Standard SS.US.12.16.2

- Action Projects link to SS.PID.5.7.1

This lesson was created by Megan Tagami.