Connected Learning Policies, Procedures, and Practices

The purpose of this tool is to show how a state and district developed policies, procedures, and practices to initiate connected learning approaches in schools.

Consider This Sample Scenario

The state encouraged districts to incorporate connected learning as a part of classroom instruction and instructional quality. State leaders determined that school districts and teachers should incorporate connected learning as a way to make learning relevant to all students. State leaders developed the following questions to guide districts in moving to a connected learning approach.

- Do current instructional strategies allow content to be learned through digital resources?

- Do teachers and students in the district have the technology skills necessary to implement connected learning? How can this information be gathered?

- How are teachers and/or districts measuring student interests and applying it to instruction?

- Is peer culture considered when creating classroom and school activities?

- What capacity do students have to show and develop digital skills and apply them to academic subject material?

- How are students learning in meaningful ways and what opportunities do they have to explore their interests in an academic setting?

- How will the district ensure that students receive additional support, as needed, to be successful?

For school leaders to shift to a connected learning model, district leaders created the expectation that teachers will administer a learning survey that provides teachers and school leaders with data on how students learn best and what strategies they find most interesting. School leaders also established the expectation that teachers will administer exit surveys on which students will be able to provide feedback to teachers on whether they feel their interests are being incorporated into classroom instruction.

District leaders provided professional development for teachers on how to incorporate digital literacy into the classroom environment. Teachers are expected to incorporate digital learning into their classroom instruction, whether it be through extended-performance tasks or weekly assignments.

Discussion Questions

- Are connected learning opportunities provided in your district? If so, what opportunities are provided?

- What policies, practices, and/or procedures does your district need in place to successfully implement and/or expand connected learning in district classrooms?

- What challenges will your district encounter if it shifts to a connected learning approach?