

5 Ways Remote Learning Strategies Work for Districts

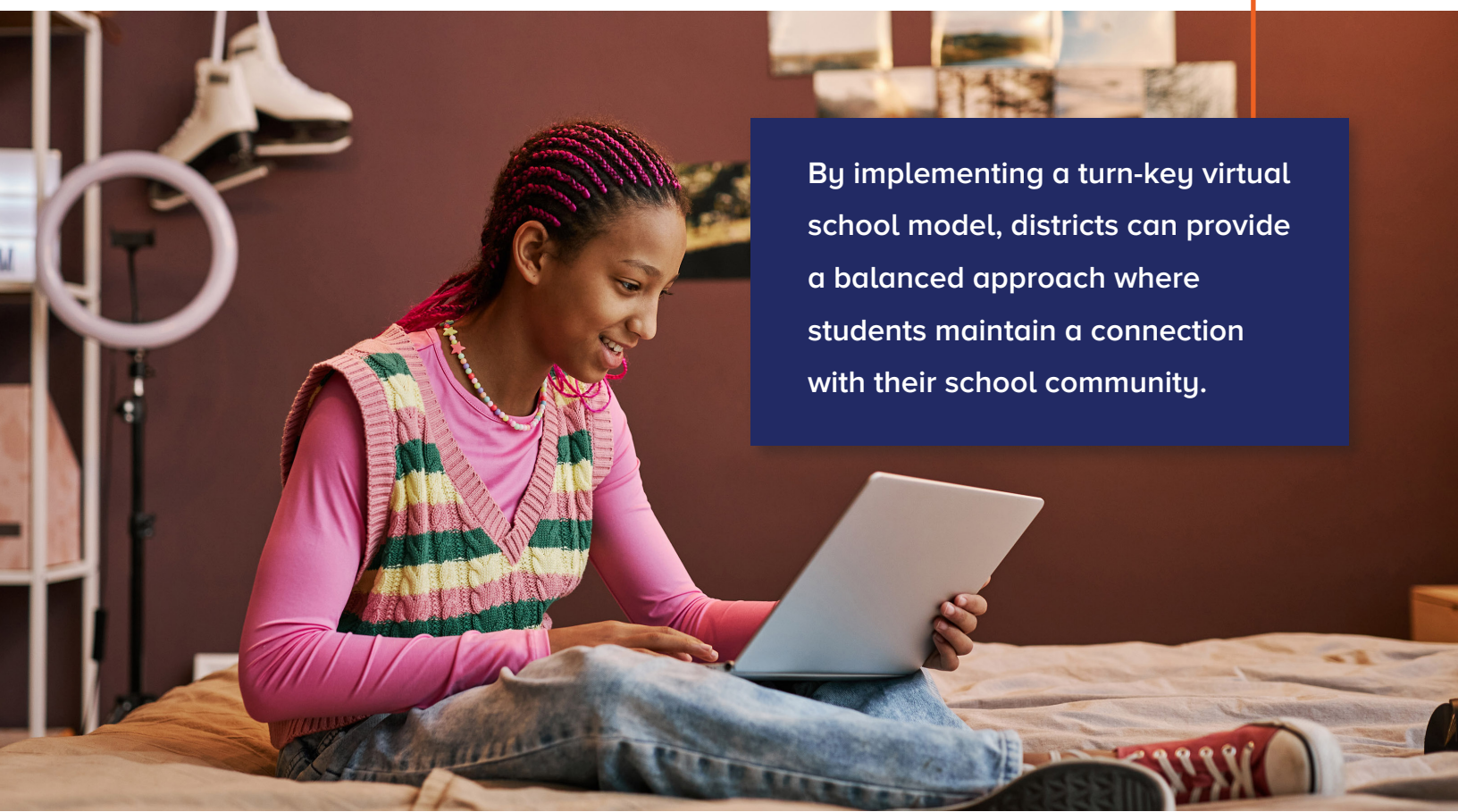


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Since the pandemic, many families have shifted away from traditional public schooling towards virtual and home-based learning environments that better align with their needs. Stride Learning Solutions has emerged as a partner for school districts, offering full-time virtual options to provide modern learning to any learner, anywhere.

The company looks at the current educational climate as an opportunity to provide more accessible, equitable education through online and blended learning. By implementing a turn-key virtual school model, districts can provide a balanced approach where students maintain a connection with their school community through extracurricular activities while primarily learning from home.



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Here's how these districts did it:

1 Engage Students

Active participation, interaction, and collaboration among students whether in person or remote is crucial to learning, especially when it comes to younger students. The California Virtual Academies (CAVA) tackles that challenge through the use of Stride's Kindergarten Prep, a program designed to empower children aged 3-5 with the skills and knowledge they need for a successful future. Kindergarten Prep is powered by the award-winning Embark curriculum. As a result, the courses are highly interactive, with audio and visuals to help children follow along, and can be taken at a pace that suits each child's learning style. "Research studies have demonstrated the powerful benefits of game-based learning for children who have grown up with technology," says CAVA's Head of School, April Warren. "The engagement and interactivity that games offer not only make learning fun but also enhance children's retention and application of knowledge."

The results speak for themselves: CAVA data indicates that a significant 86% of students have re-enrolled in its 2-year virtual school program for Kindergarten. Moreover, CAVA reports 93% of their 2022 students had 100% mastery of math essential standards at the end of the last school year. For its math program, 29% of students were demonstrating proficiency at the start of the last school year; this number increased to 81% in math by the end of the year. Reading went from 11% to 73%.

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2 Recover Credits

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic led to many students falling behind in their coursework. Recovering these credits is obviously a crucial goal for any district. Using full-time online and blended learning models through a dedicated districtwide online learning campus can reap dividends for students in many ways, including credit recovery, credit enhancement, and Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs.

Take Mount Si Online for example. The initiative was a former collaboration between Snoqualmie Valley School District and Stride Learning Solutions that offered a range of digital learning options. High school students had the option to take online or blended courses for original credit or credit recovery. Students across the district could opt into a full-time online model that met all state requirements for alternative learning, and advanced eighth-grade students could take online courses for credit enrichment over the summer. The partnership reports a cumulative passage rate of 97% since the fall semester of 2018. In credit recovery, a 100% passage rate was achieved in 2020.

3 Address Teacher Shortages

Teacher shortages have emerged as a significant challenge across school districts nationwide. Statistics from the National Center for Education (NCED) reveal that 18% of public schools had at least one teaching vacancy, and 27% experienced multiple vacancies in 2022. The shortage is particularly acute in specialized areas like world languages.

With many thousands of students spread out across more than a hundred middle and high schools, it was not practical for every individual school in Las Vegas Nevada's Clark County School District (CCSD) to fully staff language teachers in person. To supplement classroom language course offerings, the Nevada Learning Academy (NVLA), CCSD's online and campus-based alternative school, delivered the online world language program to middle and high school students across the district through Stride Learning Solutions' Middlebury Interactive Languages curriculum.

All courses were taught by full-time NVLA world language teachers, plus part-time language teachers from CCSD's regular brick-and-mortar schools. Teachers created an immersive learning environment around courses consisting of several components: weekly live broadcasts, regular face-to-face school visits, impromptu teacher-produced videos, and constant one-to-one communications with students and parents via email, text, as well as direct phone conversations. Students devoted five to seven hours per week to online courses in school labs, using school-provided portable computing devices, or their own computing devices via CCSD's bring-your-own-device program (BYOD).

4 Combat Learning Loss

The Southern University Laboratory Virtual School (SULVS) was uniquely prepared to serve their community and region when the pandemic occurred. A program of the Southern Laboratory School District (SLSD) at Southern University, SULVS is 100% online and uses curriculum and instructors from Stride Learning Solutions to offer students in grades K-12 throughout Louisiana an exceptional and highly personalized online learning experience. “One of the things we pride ourselves on is quality, not quantity,” says Nadia Seals, Director of SULVS. “We put caps on our (enrollment) to make sure we are providing a personal touch for every student. We want to make sure we give them a family atmosphere.”

This virtual school’s hands-on approach is paying off, as SULVS has seen a sharp rise in the number of students achieving grade-level proficiency over the last five years. Students even have an opportunity to earn college credit from Southern University as they’re taking high school courses. The school was honored in 2023 with the Louisiana Comeback Campus Award for its exceptional student growth and achievement with its 26-point improvement on the school performance score since the 2018-19 academic year.

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5 Create Career Pathways

The Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA) expanded its career readiness program beyond physical boundaries during the past several years. Initially offering two career pathways in 2016, the academy has since evolved to provide an extensive array of options, including pathway concentrator status, industry certifications, and partnerships with colleges and career centers.

“At ARVA, we worked with a non-profit organization in need of help during the pandemic. Since their main fundraising source was face-to-face events, they needed new strategies for marketing and generating donations,” says Lisa Short, K12 CTE Administrator for ARVA. “Our project-based learning instructors in Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Digital Arts, Microsoft and STEM courses created an opportunity for students to assist the non-profit in several areas.”

ARVA students have created fundraising mailings and online surveys, maintained web pages, redesigned and maintained social media accounts including Facebook and Instagram, and created new and innovative marketing ideas. When face-to-face interaction resumed, ARVA students planned to intern in person and continue the relationship virtually. “This is so rewarding for our students to be working on real projects with real professionals guiding their direction,” says Short.

From combating learning loss and teacher shortages to engaging students and creating career pathways, Stride Learning Solutions offers 20 years of experience partnering with school districts and organizations to provide solutions fitting all virtual schooling needs. Our continuum of online solutions – from fully turn-key virtual schools to focused programs for elementary, secondary, and summer schools – are designed with a variety of services to support the specific needs of any district’s goals.

About Stride Learning Solutions

Since 2000, Stride Learning Solutions has been a leader in strategic solutions to solve district challenges. Stride Learning Solutions’ flexible online and blended learning options boost modern instruction and promote lifelong student success. With an innovative platform, comprehensive digital courseware, adaptable technology, and extensive support, Stride Learning Solutions is equipped to help your school or district empower a brighter future for learners.

To learn more, visit StrideLS.com.