



Guidelines for Breakout Rooms during Remote & Hybrid Learning

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BREAKOUT ROOMS

Breakout Rooms are sessions that are split off from the main video conferencing meeting (Google Meets or Zoom). Breakout Rooms allow the participants to meet in smaller groups, and are completely isolated in terms of audio and video from the main session. The host of a session may move back and forth between the main session and the established Breakout Rooms.

INSTRUCTIONAL TOOL

For students in Kindergarten - Grade 12 the use of virtual Breakout Rooms is a supported instructional tool for increasing student independence and improving engagement.

Prior to implementing the use of Breakout Rooms for students, educators must provide direct and explicit instruction on student expectations for Breakout Room use. Students must be provided with directions on how to quickly access the educator or support staff and how to report inappropriate student conduct that may occur in the Breakout Room.

SUPERVISION

Educators should exercise reasonable care when using Breakout Rooms. Students in Kindergarten - Grade 3 must be supervised at all times even in a Breakout Room. For students in Grades 4 - 12, if direct supervision of each Breakout Room is not possible, educators and/or support staff must consistently and periodically circulate from room to room to check in with and monitor students. This means educators and/or support staff should check in with students in Breakout Rooms no less than every 10 minutes. Educators who have a mix of in-person and remote learners may also wish to create small groups that mix in-person learners and remote learners in order to facilitate classroom-based monitoring.

EXPECTATIONS

Student behavioral expectations remain the same across all contexts and learning environments. Students are expected to be safe, respectful and responsible. If a student or parent witnesses or becomes aware of student conduct that does not meet these expectations, reach out to the student's classroom teacher as soon as possible for support and intervention.