



## **Digital Tips for Student Engagement**

In the digital age, children and adolescents are connecting, communicating, and curating information in new and fast-evolving ways. To meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century students, Georgia educators are reimagining what literacy, teaching, and learning mean in both virtual and physical spaces. As teachers continue to integrate versatile experiences into their instruction, they are generating new methods for assessing and increasing student engagement. Designed by K-12 educators in Georgia, this collection of tips offers ideas for using digital tools to bolster student engagement in virtual, physical, synchronous, and asynchronous learning contexts.

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## Curiosity, Resilience, & Motivation

Engagement Goal	Instructional Practices, Tips, & Ideas	Digital Tools & Resources*
<p><b>Encouraging student curiosity</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use intriguing, relatable, or fun <b>openers</b> to provoke thought and dialogue.</li> <li>2. Go on <b>virtual field trips</b> to build background knowledge.</li> <li>3. Use <b>polls and surveys</b> to connect with students on a personal level, to provide them with opportunities to share their opinions, and to activate their prior knowledge about the learning targets.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Openers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Brave New Voices</a></li> <li>• Costumes</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fernbank Museum at Home</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Instagram</a></li> <li>• Meme Generator</li> <li>• <a href="#">Picture Books</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">TED Talks</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Podcasts</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">TikTok</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Twitter</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Vevo</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Edpuzzle</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Virtual Gallery Walks</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Virtual Field Trips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">41 Virtual Field Trips for Kids to Get Them Learning About the World</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The American Museum of Natural History</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Art Institute of Chicago</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Atlanta History Center</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Georgia Museum of Art</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Getty Center</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The High Museum of Art</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Metropolitan Museum of Art</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The National Center for Civil and Human Rights</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The National Gallery of Art</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The National World War II Museum</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Smithsonian</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Polls and Surveys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Forms</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Meet polls</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mentimeter free educator account</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Plickers</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Poll Everywhere K-12 plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sli.do basic plan</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom polls</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Motivating students to participate in the learning</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Goal-Setting</b> and Self-Assessment: Allow students to set goals and self-assess themselves throughout the learning block.</li> <li>2. Incorporate <b>games to solicit participation</b>, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>“I Spy” Activity:</b> Create a list of desired behaviors: some fun, some serious. During break times call out students who you spied exhibiting these behaviors. (e.g., a person who says the buzz word of the day: “mute”)</li> <li>○ <b>Magic Word:</b> Send an email message in advance telling them to listen for a specific word in an upcoming synchronous session. Recognize students and let them celebrate when they hear it during the session.</li> <li>○ <b>Twenty Questions:</b> Choose a secret vocabulary word, and invite students to guess the word by asking up to twenty questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.”</li> <li>○ <b>Kahoot:</b> Use Kahoot so that competition is fuel for good.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Goal-Setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Basecamp</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Goal-buddy</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Games to Solicit Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Kahoot</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Decision-maker</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wheel of Names</a></li> </ul>

	<p>3. <b>Empower</b> students' learning process through <b>creation and/or demonstration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Give Desktop Control:</b> Share control of the host screen to manipulate items on the computer, demonstrate understanding, or share new ideas.</li> <li>○ <b>Create an Infomercial, Public Service Announcement (PSA), or Trailer:</b> Use digital storytelling tools to demonstrate understanding of a topic. Creations can be saved to introduce future students to new topics to pique interests. The final products can be shared for all participants to view/published online.</li> <li>○ <b>Top Ten List:</b> Create a collaborative list of the most important takeaways, written with humor. Encourage collaboration by allowing each student to contribute one or more take-aways. An additional level of engagement could be added by voting on the most accurate/ humorous offering.</li> <li>○ <b>Unpack Thinking:</b> As participants work through difficult problems/concepts, invite them to use the microphone to share their step-by-step thinking or to share their screen with their work and talk through their rationale.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Creation/Demonstration Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Padlet</a></li> <li>• Interactive/Digital Journals/Notebooks</li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">iMovie</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Screencastify</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Collaborative Google Slides</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> </ul>
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<p><b>Encouraging punctual and consistent student attendance</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Waterfall:</b> Instead of asking a question and having students respond immediately, allow a waterfall response. Ask all students the question but ask them not to click submit on their answers yet. After the teacher gives the keyword (“waterfall,” or another word of your choice), everyone clicks submit at the same time for a waterfall of answers. Allow thinking time and waiting time does not allow students to just copy/paste others’ responses.</li> <li>2. <b>Announcements:</b> Have students email you messages in advance about what is happening in their lives (sports, clubs, hobbies, awards); present these announcements at the beginning of a synchronous session. Alternatively, you could keep a running Google or Microsoft Form to submit announcements.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Waterfall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Classrooms</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Schoolology</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom/Google Meet/Microsoft Teams</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Announcements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom/Google Meet/Microsoft Teams</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Classrooms</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Announcements</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Forms/Microsoft Forms</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Motivating students to complete tasks and assignments</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add <b>badges and certificates</b> to recognize students for their accomplishments.</li> <li>2. Use <b>“Announcements”</b> feature to celebrate student work</li> <li>3. Utilize digital tool(s) for creating <b>virtual portfolios</b> for students to demonstrate completed tasks to peers/authentic audience/establish relationships with local community/businesses for external audience</li> </ol>	<p><b>Badge/Certificate Creation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Adobe Spark Badges</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Canva</a></li> <li>• Google add-ons, e.g., <a href="#">Magic Digital Badges</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">“Make Badges with Google Apps”</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Announcements and Virtual Portfolios</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Drawings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Classrooms</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Announcements</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Sites</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Seesaw</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Building students' reading resilience and engagement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilize <b>emojis to track thinking</b> and boost engagement while reading.</li> <li>2. Digital tools for students to use to <b>retell stories, including key details, and the message of the lesson</b>. Allow opportunities for students to share their thoughts around book themes.</li> <li>3. Share slide that has a screenshot of the poem, song, big book so that you can <b>annotate</b> on it.</li> <li>4. Project the(read-aloud) book under a <b>document camera</b>; alternatively, focus on the illustrations OR read aloud in front of a webcam.</li> <li>5. Extend the amount of <b>time</b> students are <b>responsible</b> for independently reading/engaging in tasks in <b>small increments to build resilience</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Emojis to Track Thinking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">“How to Harness the Power of Emojis to Track Thinking and Boost Engagement While Reading”</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Emojis make Language More Accessible?</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Text Contemplation and Communication Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Mentimeter</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Docs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Synth</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ShowMe</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Voxer</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Annotation Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Slides</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">“Top Tech for Digital Annotation”</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Document Camera</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Turn Your iPhone into a Document Camera App</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LetsView Free Wireless Screen Mirroring</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Time Monitoring Devices (Clocks)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Online Stopwatch</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Online Timer</a></li> </ul>

## Instructional Planning & Strategies

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<p><b>Designing instruction intentionally with clearly identified desired learning outcomes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers should reflect on the following questions and <b>plan intentionally</b>.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity: What am I asking students to do?</li> <li>Context: Why is it important?</li> <li>“Whole Child”: How do I show my support?</li> <li>Challenge: How do I balance challenge and skill?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Plan clear and focused <b>learning targets</b> to ground instruction; make sure students know what and why they are learning – and how they will know when they have mastered it.</li> <li>Use an <b>instructional framework</b> that keeps direct instruction short and focused and that emphasizes active learning.</li> <li>Select relevant tools that meet the <b>function and conditions of learning</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Intentional Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Teacher Clarity: A Catalyst to Student Clarity and Success (Vandas) Webinar</a></li> <li><a href="#">“Putting Students in Charge of their Learning”</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Targets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Targets: What do we want students to know and be able to do? (Cris Tovani for GaDOE)</a></li> <li><a href="#">John Hattie: Learning Intentions and Success Criteria Video</a></li> <li><a href="#">Clarity for Learning (Almarode &amp; Vandas) Study Guide</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Instructional Frameworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">GaDOE ELA Instructional Framework</a></li> <li><a href="#">Time: Planning for students to do the work (Cris Tovani for GaDOE)</a></li> <li><a href="#">“Pacing Lessons for Optimal Learning”</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Planning Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">“75 Digital Tools &amp; Apps Teachers Use to Support Formative Assessment”</a></li> <li><a href="#">Chalk</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Crafting interesting, student-centered lessons</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide students with choice and opportunities for <b>creative applications</b>.</li> <li>2. Utilize digital tools that provide instant <b>data to guide instruction</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Creative Applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Animoto</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Storybird</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">ThingLink</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Docs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Grammarly</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Padlet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Quizlet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">“Interactive Learning Menus with G-Suite”</a></li> <li>• Using emojis or shapes to tell a story in <a href="#">Google Drawings</a></li> <li>• Podcast Creation: <a href="#">Anchor.fm</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Kami</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Instant Data to Guide Instruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Kahoot</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Poll Everywhere</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Socrative</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">“75 Digital Tools &amp; Apps Teachers Use to Support Formative Assessment”</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Establishing engaging (virtual) lessons</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a <b>virtual collaboration board</b> to get students to share images or write a response to show what they had learned about a text they read.</li> <li>2. <b>Teacher Transformations:</b> Dress up as a character in a story, historical figure, or scientist or mathematician (with your webcam on if virtual). Talk to your students as that character. Make it related to your content, or the content being studied at the time. It can be made humorous with a funny pair of glasses, hat, or wig. If virtual, also use a virtual background that will accompany your character.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Virtual Collaboration Boards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Nearpod Collaborate!</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Explain Everything</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Jamboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Whiteboard.fi</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Teachers Transformations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Canva Virtual Background Creator</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">"How to Create an Online Teaching Background Your Students will Love"</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">PBSKids Backgrounds</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Poster My Wall Background Designs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom Backgrounds</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">TeacherLists Backgrounds</a></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Engaging all students during reading instruction</b></p> <p><i>Guided reading &amp; Small group reading instruction</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Guided Reading:</b> Ask the other students to turn down their volume while you work with one student/group at a time. All students are engaged in reading their book. This is an alternative to having students go to individual breakout rooms. Also, a podcast or video could be pre-recorded for students when they will not be actively involved in the small group for asynchronous instruction.</li> <li><b>Small Group Reading:</b> Create <b>interactive whiteboards</b> where students can manipulate objects on the screen to show their understanding of letters, sounds, and vocabulary.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Guided Reading Alternative Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Podcast Creation: <a href="https://anchor.fm">Anchor.fm</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.screencastify.com/">Screencastify</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Small Group Reading Instruction Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://jamboard.google.com/">Jamboard</a></li> <li><a href="#">Using Jamboard for Small Group Reading Instruction</a></li> <li><a href="https://whiteboard.fi/">Whiteboard.fi</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Creating a deeper understanding of the topic</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide students with platforms that allow them to visually <b>transform their ideas</b> in order to explore ideas that are new to them.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Transformational Ideas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://docs.google.com/">Google Docs</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.thinglink.com/">ThingLink</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.flipgrid.com/">Flipgrid</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.screencastify.com/">Screencastify</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.seesaw.me/">Seesaw</a></li> <li>Podcast Creation: <a href="https://anchor.fm">Anchor.fm</a></li> </ul>

## Collaboration & Reflection

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<p><b>Fostering a collaborative environment</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set up <b>structures that support “student agency”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide students with spaces to share their thoughts and ideas with their classmates and receive teacher and peer feedback.</li> <li>○ Virtual turn and talk through the chat feature - share and respond to an identified partner rather than responding to everyone</li> <li>○ Assign groups to respond simultaneously</li> </ul> </li>   <li>2. Build relationships by getting to know students and reassuring them that not only is it okay to ask <b>questions</b>, but it is <b>welcomed</b>.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Model Questioning techniques</li> <li>○ When a student asks a good question, pause and break down why it is such a good question.</li> <li>○ Post “excellent questions” in the Google Classroom as exemplars.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Structures for “Student Agency”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Padlet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Docs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nearpod Collaborate!</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Jamboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Whiteboard.fi</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Canva</a></li> <li>• Breakout groups in <a href="#">Google meet</a> or <a href="#">Zoom</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Voxer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pear Deck</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Questioning Supports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Zoom/Google Meet/ Microsoft Teams</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pear Deck</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Classrooms</a></li> </ul>

Engagement Goal	Instructional Practices, Tips, & Ideas	Digital Tools & Resources*
<p><b>Cultivating collaborative and productive student discussions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assign <b>group roles</b> that are task oriented and thinking oriented.</li> <li>2. Provide text and questions in advance for students to <b>prepare for discussions</b> with their peers.</li> <li>3. Use Google Drawings or Flipgrid to create <b>inviting book talks</b>.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Group Roles for Cooperative Tasks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Student Roles for Digital Literature Circles</a></li> <li>• Virtual Breakout Rooms</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Preparation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Padlet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Docs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mote Voice Messages (Chrome Extension)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Inviting Book Talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Google Drawings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How to Spark Book Talks with Google Drawing</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">“Empowering Student Voice: Digital Book Talks with Flipgrid”</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Creating opportunities for students to reflect and grow</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide students with <b>self-assessment and reflection opportunities</b>, including various methods (e.g., videos, audio presentations, etc.)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Reflection Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Reflection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Flipgrid</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">YouTube</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Screencastify</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Anchor.fm</a></li> </ul>

\*These tools are offered as examples of what teachers around Georgia are doing in their classrooms and are not endorsed by GaDOE. Resources (at least some version) listed can be utilized without purchase at the time of this publication. Please be sure to follow your district’s guidance on appropriate online tools to use in your classrooms.

*Did we miss a fantastic digital resource that has changed your life and the way you teach? Please reach out and let us know by submitting this [form](#)!*