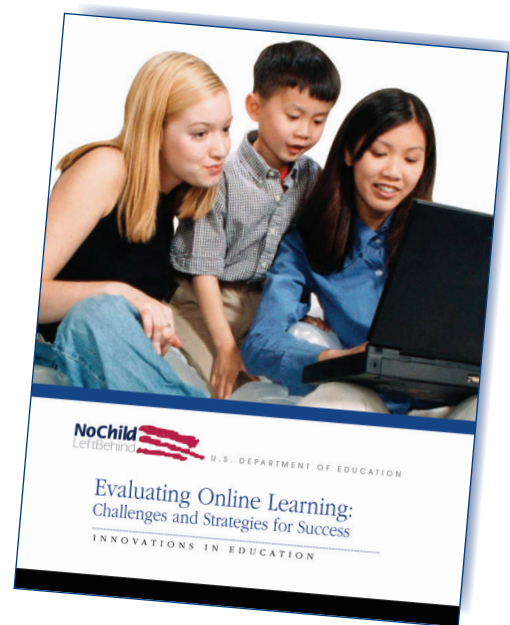


Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success

Innovations In Education

As with any education program, online learning initiatives must be held accountable for results. But evaluating online initiatives can present some particular challenges; for example, meeting the needs of multiple stakeholders, finding appropriate comparison groups, or collecting data from multiple locations. Seven evaluations highlighted in this guide represent a broad spectrum of online options, from programs that provide online courses to Web sites that feature education resources. The evaluations themselves range from internal assessments to external, scientific research studies. All demonstrate how program leaders and evaluators have been able to implement strong evaluation practices despite some challenges inherent to examining learning in an online environment.

This is one of a series of innovation guides produced by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. All guides in this series (and a link to the archived webcast) are available as free downloads at <http://www.ed.gov/about/pubs/intro/innovations.html>.



Featured Evaluations

Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, & Students Statewide Distance Learning

Algebra I Online, Louisiana Virtual School

Appleton eSchool

Arizona Virtual Academy

Chicago Public Schools' Virtual High School

Digital Learning Commons

Thinkport – Maryland Public Television

Additional Web Resources

An archived webcast featuring a panel of national education leaders and experts on online learning, including some featured in this guide, is available at <http://evalonline.ed.gov>.

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