



Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences Should Never Go Away

By Educator Barnes – October 30, 2021

Parent/Teacher Conferences are a critical component of every school year. This is an opportunity for teachers to share areas of success of their students and areas of growth. This is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn how to support their children at home.

The pandemic had an impact on many areas of life including conferences. To limit the spread of the coronavirus, conferences were moved to the virtual setting. Although students are learning in person across the country, many schools have kept virtual conferences. When the pandemic ends, virtual conferences should continue to be an option.

One of the biggest complaints of teachers is a lack of parent engagement which includes frustration with parents not attending parent/teacher conferences. Just because parents are absent, it does not mean they don't care or don't want to attend conferences. Virtual conferences provide more options. Parents can attend from any place. They can use a break at work to chat with their children's teachers especially if they don't have hours available to take off work. Virtual conference eliminates drive time which would have to be factored into the amount of time some parents would have to take off to attend conferences.

Virtual conferences are also beneficial for teachers. Instead of collecting a hard copy portfolio of work, teachers can easily share their screen and show their students' work to their parents. Teachers or staff who are bilingual and interpret at conferences can move from virtual call to virtual call instead of trying to dart from classroom to classroom.

School staff should not complain about parental involvement when multiple options for parents to connect with teachers are not available. Hopefully, the day will come for in person conferences to come back which also allows parents to look at their children's classroom, desk, and locker. But if a parent cannot come in person, virtual conferences should still be an option.