Providing learners with multiple learning paths empowers them to take control of their learning. When learners feel empowered and in control of their learning, their engagement increases. This is important for at least two reasons. First, increased engagement often leads to meaningful learning experiences that remain with learners long after a course ends. Secondly, increased engagement helps learners discover new interests, which stimulates their desire to learn. Presenting content in a variety of modalities and allowing students to choose how they will be assessed are simple strategies that provide learners with multiple learning paths.
HELPFUL HINTS for putting standard into practice

Other helpful hints for building learner engagement include:

- Connect assessments to real-world contexts, leveraging the information learners already know and contextualizing new information.
- Differentiate content by providing just-in-time remediation for struggling learners and enrichment opportunities for advanced learners.
- Provide formative activities that allow learners to self-assess their understanding at various stages throughout the learning process.
- Use conferencing to build relationships with learners and informally gauge their understanding to identify opportunities for support.
- Ensure activities and assessments are aligned to standards, and communicate explicit criteria for success in the form of rubrics.
- Present content using a variety of media (i.e., text, video, audio, etc.) to accommodate multiple learning preferences.
- Leverage Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to ensure that all learners have an equal opportunity to succeed.

RESOURCES to support standard use (mostly practical)

Designing for Student Learning Preferences in the Online Classroom - These resources offer practical strategies for designing online education that addresses multiple learning preferences and increases student engagement.

- What are the design factors that drive quality in K-12 remote learning?
- Designing Online Courses for Different Learning Preferences

Designing for Student Voice and Choice - These resources offer practical strategies for incorporating student voice and choice in the online classroom, allowing students to take ownership of and responsibility for their learning.

- How Implementing Voice & Choice Can Improve Student Engagement
- Student Voice & Choice in a Remote Learning Environment
- Voices from the Field: Promote student choice & voice to support and differentiate learning

Designing for Learning Pathways - These resources explain what learning pathways are and offer practical tips for incorporating learning pathways in an online setting.

- What Are Flexible Pathways for Learning?
- 7 Tips To Create Personal Learning Paths in eLearning
- South Carolina Framework for Personalized, Competency-Based Learning

Designing with Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Mind - These resources offer practical strategies for incorporating UDL principles in the online classroom.

- Ten Steps Toward Universal Design of Online Courses
- UDL Guidelines Checklist
- FIVE WAYS TO INCORPORATE UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING INTO YOUR ONLINE COURSE

Author/Organization Bio

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Check out the NSQ Professional Learning Portal and NSQ Website for more resources at www.NSQ01.org.