

Using Zoom or Any Video Conference with Special Needs Students.

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A few things I suggest to help all students and especially special needs students when using video conferencing technology for teaching and learning are:

- Always use closed captions (CC):
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115003498783-Viewing-Closed-Captions>
- Record all meetings and post these on the teacher's website or in Google classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BXjQ4x-H1s> NOTE: With Zoom make sure you are using a Zoom within your MDUSD Google account so that the videos are safely saved into your MDUSD Google drive.
- Send out keyboard shortcuts to help students:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205683899-Hot-Keys-and-Keyboard-for-Zoom>
- Describing content that is displayed on Zoom will help anyone with vision or learning disabilities, as well as students who need to call in due to internet issues.
- If you are hosting a Zoom meeting and choose to have students write questions in the chat, try to repeat the question for everyone to hear before answering it. Consider asking another student to help manage side conversations in the chat, and to share the questions and comments at regular intervals with everyone in the main Zoom room.
- If students in your class require assistive technology, do not post important hyperlinks in the Zoom chat. The assistive technology some students use will not be able to activate any links embedded in the chat. You can instead share links and resources before or after the meeting through email or on Google Classroom. If other participants post links in the chat, remember to share (or designate a student to share) those links with the class by email or through Google Classroom.
- You can also save the chat before ending the meeting to distribute as a text file to your students after the session ends:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115004792763-Saving-in-meeting-chat>

- If you're using Zoom for students to present, you might consider using the "Spotlight" video feature to make the current speaker larger and more visible to the class. This can assist with lip-reading and other techniques students use to communicate.
- Soundtrap is an online audio recording platform for speech teachers where they can work with students, and have a chat on the side, either vocally or through text while they're having them record and work on their speech issues. <https://www.commonsense.org/education/website/soundtrap>