MASSACHUSETTS CONNECTIONS ACADEMY
Commonwealth Virtual School

Massachusetts Connections Academy®

eGuide

Creating Confident Learners,
Ready to Thrive



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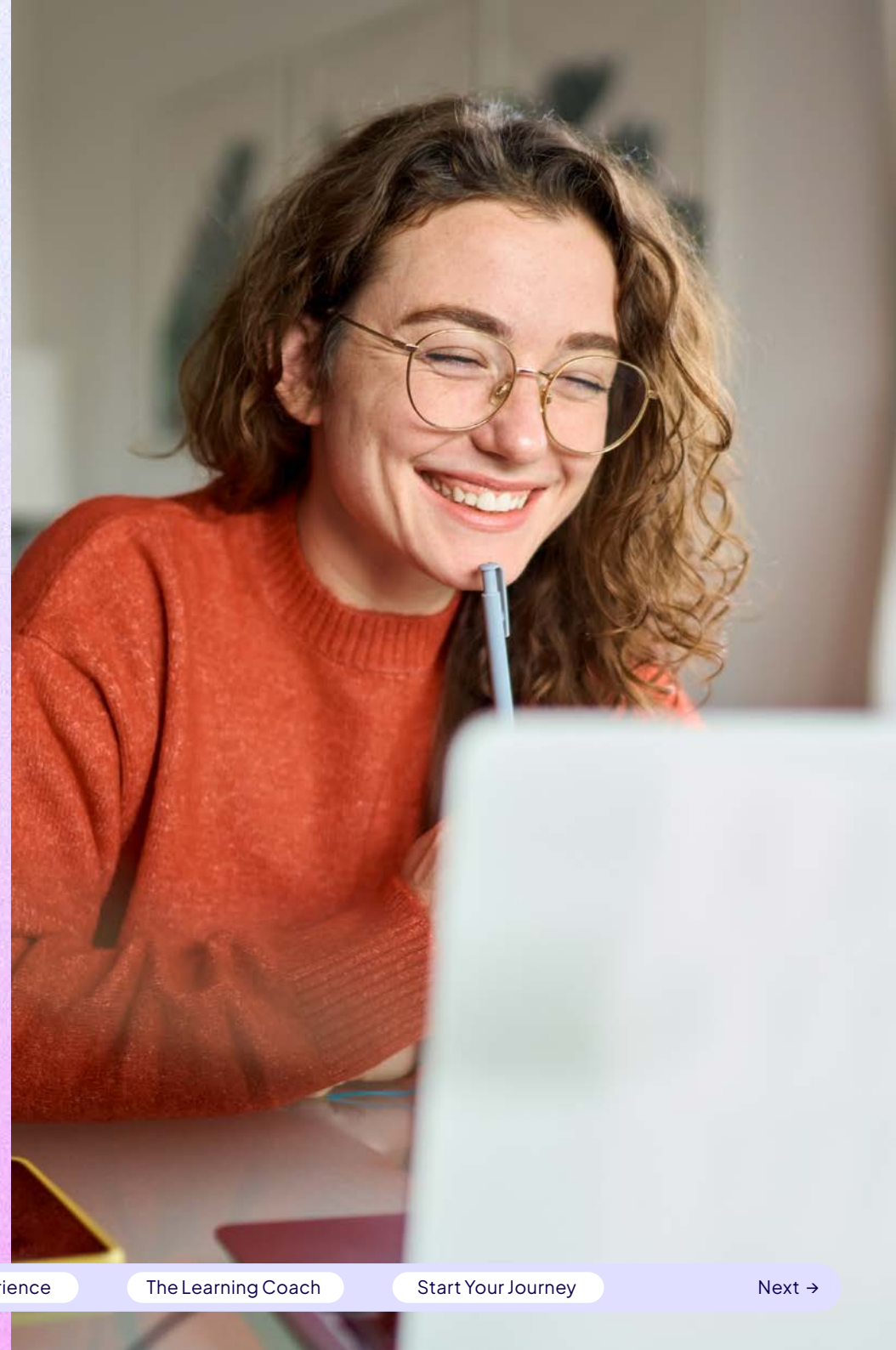
The Massachusetts Connections Academy experience transforms learning for your child. Wherever your child is on their learning journey, **Massachusetts Connections Academy builds powerful personal connections**—linking students, families, and dedicated educators into **a strong circle of support.**

Explore this eGuide to learn more about online learning and the Massachusetts Connections Academy experience, including how **we help students become confident learners, ready to embrace their futures.**

What You Can Expect

Discover an Innovative and Comprehensive Educational Experience



A Comprehensive Educational Experience

Curriculum Designed for Online School

Developed by experts in online learning, our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity, foster long-lasting connections, and expand students' understanding of the world and their place in it.

Personalized Learning that Encourages Exploration

Our online school format gives students the flexibility to discover new interests and explore their passions with the combined support from their teachers and guardians.

Education that Supports Well-Being

With a dual focus on their education and well-being, Massachusetts Connections Academy students learn how to think critically and problem-solve, gaining the confidence they need to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Collaborative Experience to Support Student Success

At Massachusetts Connections Academy, Learning Coaches play an important role in each student's education. A Learning Coach is a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult who acts as a daily guide, motivator, and mentor for an at-home student.

As a Learning Coach, you'll support your student, from helping set daily routines to ensuring student work is complete. But you won't be alone. Our state-certified teachers and school community take the time to get to know your child—so your family feels supported and your student feels like they belong, every step of the way.

The Online School Experience

Learn about the 4 Elements of Online School

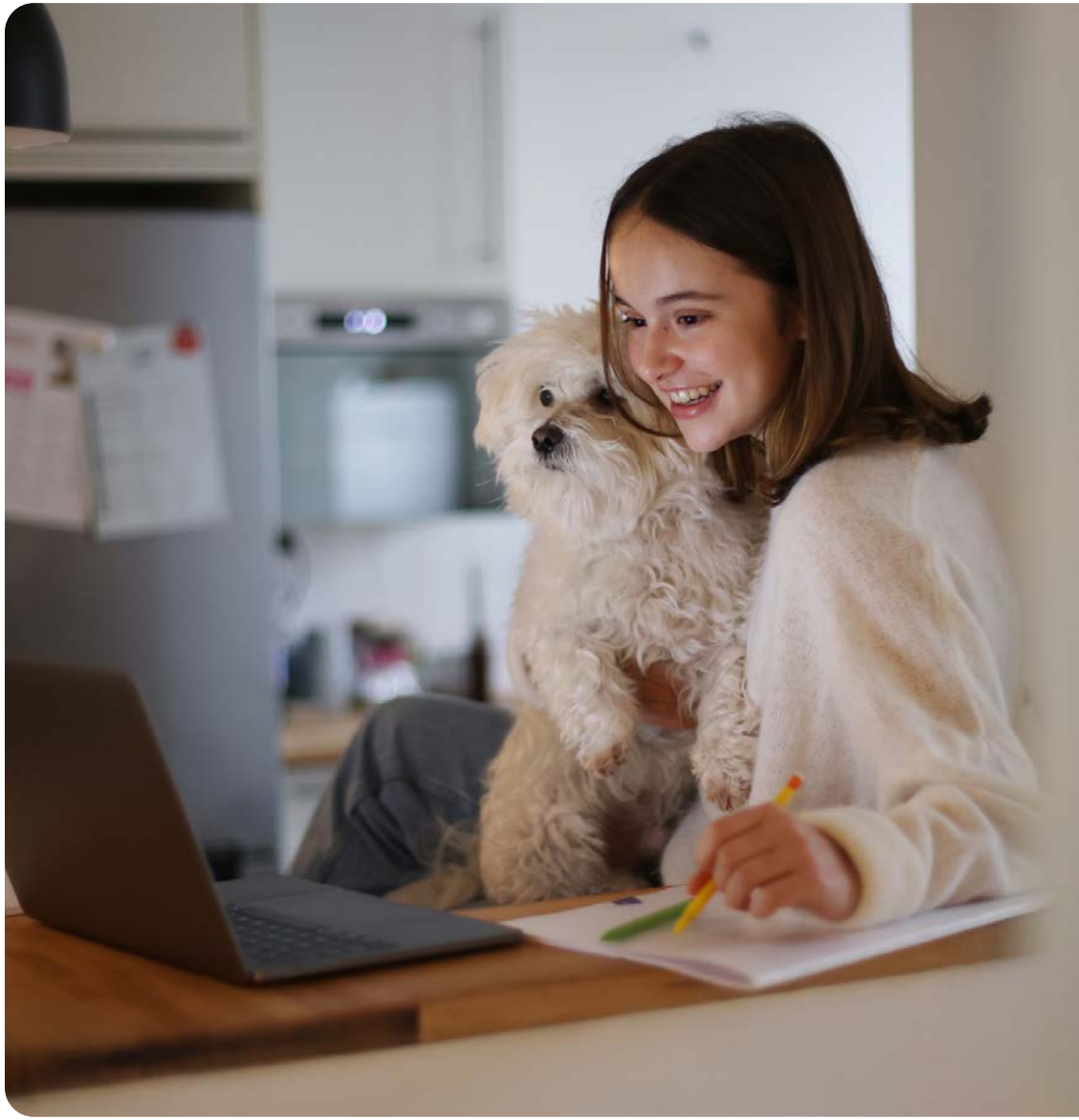


Interactive, Live Instruction

Massachusetts Connections Academy students have the opportunity to participate in live class instruction, called LiveLesson® sessions.

In these sessions, teachers reinforce challenging concepts and motivate students to become active learners by engaging and participating in activities, asking questions, and collaborating with peers through microphone and chat.

Students do more than simply master concepts—they build meaningful connections and grow into confident learners who feel prepared to participate, contribute, and lead.



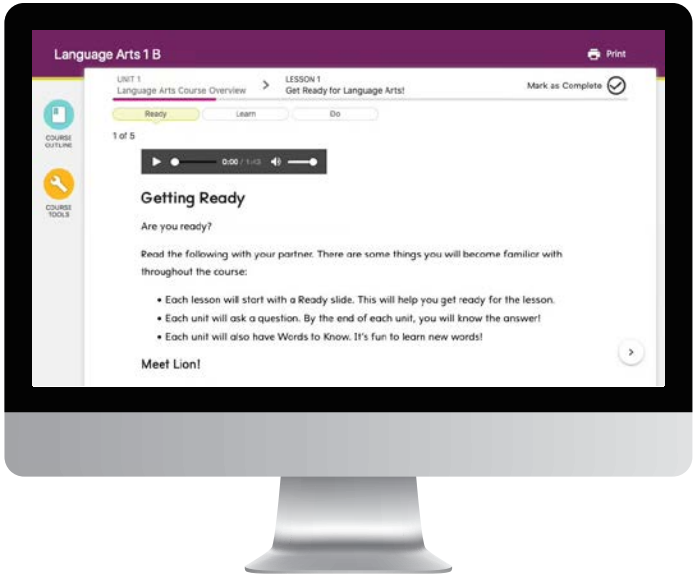
A Personalized Learning Path

Specifically designed for online learning, Massachusetts Connections Academy's curriculum engages minds, sparks curiosity, and inspires students to want to learn more.

Massachusetts Connections Academy school offers a variety of courses tailored to each student's unique interests, goals, and abilities, along with a variety of electives.

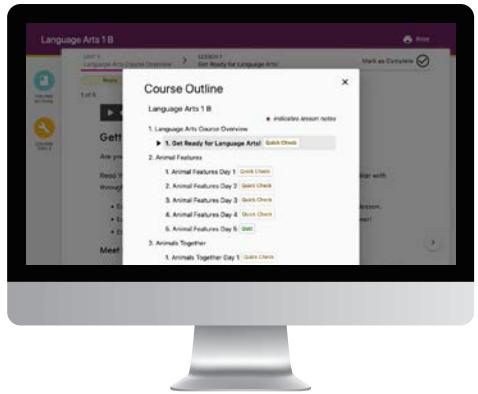
Get Ready to Start Learning

Designed by experts in online learning, our curriculum inspires curiosity and helps students become resilient learners. Students have the ability to learn at their own pace, which allows them to spend more time with subjects or concepts when they need to.



The Lesson Course Tree

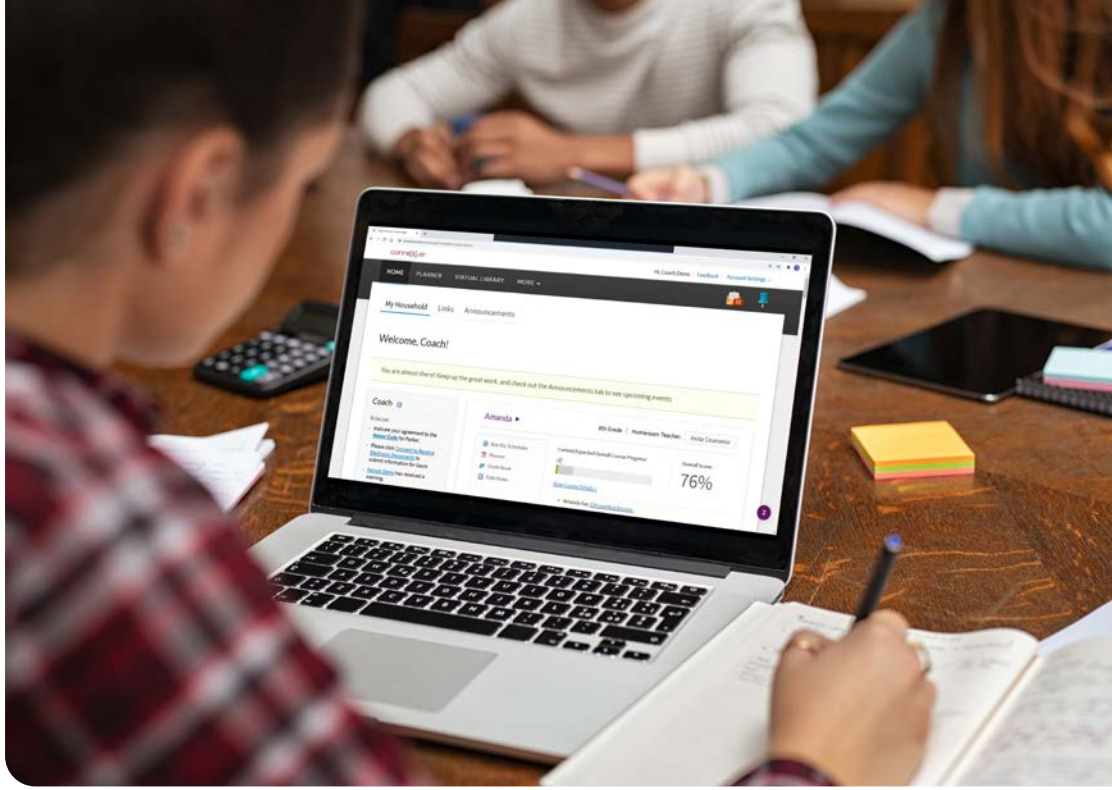
Students can quickly move between lessons using a visual course map that shows every lesson and the assessment types connected to each one.



An Intuitive Online Classroom

Pearson Online Classroom is the main hub for the Massachusetts Connections Academy learning experience, where your child will connect with their peers, teachers, and school support staff.
In the Online Classroom, your student will:

- access **lessons** and **message boards**
- view their **planner, gradebook** and **progress bar**
- attend **LiveLesson** sessions
- communicate with teachers and **build connections** with peers
- find the **school directory**
- find **tips and resources** to help them succeed



Tour the Online Classroom

At Massachusetts Connections Academy, we help students to achieve their goals by empowering them to learn how they learn best. Every school day starts in our online classroom. We provide digital tools for collaboration, allowing students to partner with teachers, peers, and their Learning Coach so they can take ownership of their learning.

Classroom Tour

Planner

At the beginning of each day, Learning Coaches and students should review the Student Planner together to identify lessons to complete. This allows you to arrange the day based on your student's needs, reserving more or less time based on how long your student typically grasps concepts and retains knowledge.

A typical week will include:

- lessons scheduled to fit your day
- live instruction led by our specialized teachers
- assignments for practice and retention
- assessments to measure comprehension

Virtual Library

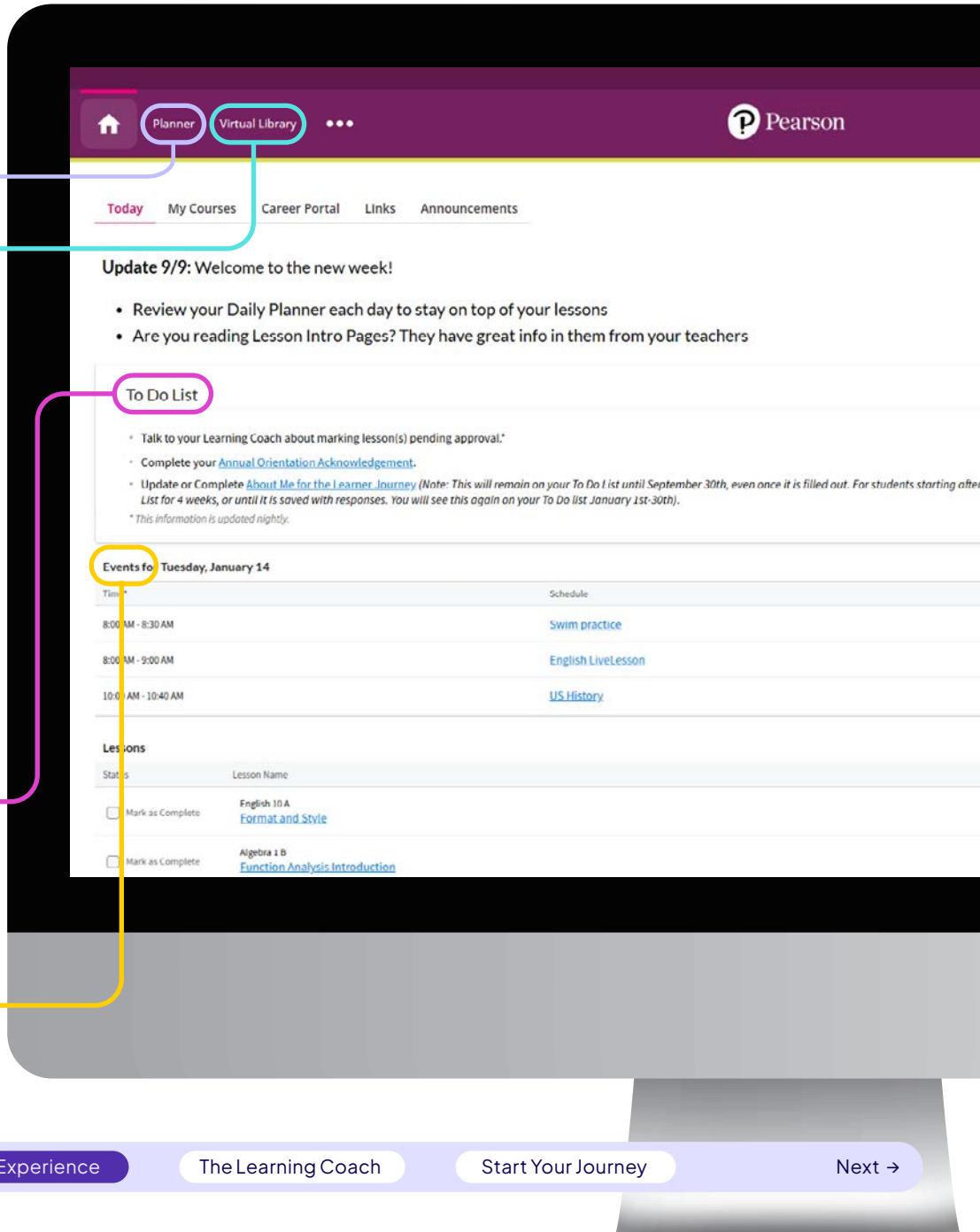
The Virtual Library features the school handbook, the Connections Academy Honor Code, information about clubs and activities, and other school-related resources.

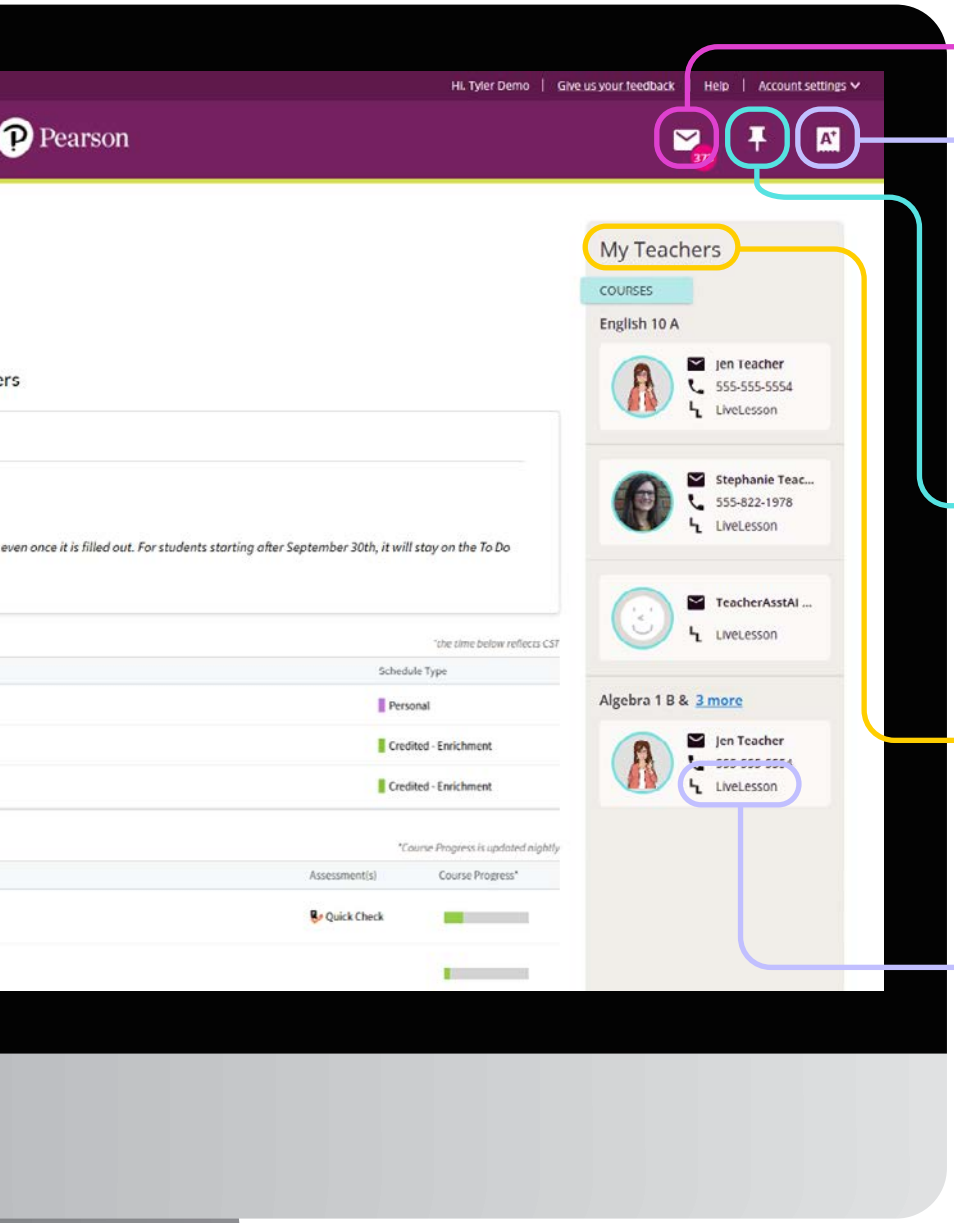
To-Do List

The To-Do list contains an attendance link and other time-sensitive reminders and alerts, including lessons that require Learning Coach approval or past-due lessons.

Events

The events section displays items from your student's planner on their home page, including LiveLesson sessions and appointments.





Webmail

Webmail is a secure internal messaging system that should be checked at the start of every day. This is where students can communicate with teachers and staff directly and where they will receive assessment feedback from teachers.

Grade Book

Students can access their grade book to track their assessment progress and grades.

Message Boards

Students can access message boards created by their teachers for course announcements, course resources, and live instruction recordings.

My Teachers

Students interact with teachers in multiple ways during the learning process. With all teachers listed, students can contact them directly for extra support, questions about an assignment, and more.

LiveLesson

During live instruction, teachers reinforce challenging concepts and motivate students to become active learners—engaging and participating in activities, asking questions, and collaborating with peers through microphone and chat.

The Learning Coach

Explore the Essential Role of a Learning Coach



The Role of the Learning Coach

Learning Coaches help their student thrive by creating a structured learning environment, tracking student progress, communicating regularly with teachers, and more. The time necessary to be a Learning Coach varies. Here are some general guidelines.

Elementary School | Grades K-5	**Middle School** | Grades 6–8	**High School** | Grades 9–12
Spend about 5–6 hours a day overseeing schoolwork	Spend 2–6 hours a day overseeing schoolwork	Spend 2–6 hours a day overseeing schoolwork
Schedule your child's day with school activities and breaks	Lend a hand with some lessons	Lend a hand with some lessons
Lend a hand with online school lessons	Check to make sure your child understands what they're learning	Check to make sure your child is keeping their grades up
Regularly connect with your child's teacher	Communicate one-on-one with teachers	Connect your child with their teacher when needed

"We really love this school , it has become like a second family, our child loves the whole experience."

– Christa H.
Connections Academy Parent

"This school teaches students to give their best and become their best."

– Lucy D.
Connections Academy Parent

"I absolutely love Connections Academy. It was a game changer for our family and our needs."

– Gina H.
Connections Academy Parent



Comprehensive Support

Learning Coaches have their own account to access Pearson Online Classroom—our user-friendly online portal. There they can find resources and complete required tasks, including taking attendance. Learning Coaches have access to the student gradebook and assignment due dates to help keep their students on track.

"A school that treats your child as an individual and listens to the parents. Great curriculum and support."

-Kandice C.
Connections Academy Parent

Parent Satisfaction

With more than 20 years of expertise in online learning, we understand and are able to meet the needs of our parents and students. We consistently receive high praise in our Parent Satisfaction Survey*:



97% of parents agree our teachers are supportive



97% of parents agree they have more opportunities to be involved



94% of parents would recommend Connections Academy.



96% agree the curriculum is high quality.

* Based on a 2026 Parent Satisfaction Survey

" My child has thrived in Connections Academy. Having other children who attended brick and mortar schools, I know that she has been challenged more, offered more opportunities and variety of classes and hasn't had to deal with the distractions of in person school."

-Lisa H.
Connections Academy Parent

"This has been the best experience we could have asked for. Actually have already sent two families from brick-and-mortar schools to 'Connections Academy' this year. We are very happy with our choice!"

-Kaitlin C.
Connections Academy Parent

Start Your Journey

Get Your Child on the Right Learning Path



Is Online School Right For You?

Take our short quiz to find out!

What does your student's learning space look like?

A They have an office, den, or other room away from household distractions that has a desktop or laptop computer and internet connection.

B A laptop computer and internet connection that your student will use to study in any room of the house.

C A desktop computer and internet connection in a popular area of the home, such as the family room.

D We're on the go a lot but have frequent access to a computer and connection to the internet.

How would you describe your typical daily schedule?

A Flexible and fairly open—I often have periods of free time throughout the day to interact and engage with my student.

B Busy, but not overwhelming—I have time throughout the day to check in with my student.

C Busy/nonstop—I always have something to do and somewhere to be.

D I work full-time and will not be able to support my student while I'm working.

What is the top reason you're interested in virtual school for your student?

A My student isn't being challenged enough currently or is not receiving the personalized attention they need to succeed and thrive in school.

B I'm concerned about the safety of our current school environment and the negative effects this environment could have on my student.

C Busy/nonstop—I always have something to do and somewhere to be.

D I work full-time and will not be able to support my student while I'm working.

Which statement best describes your student's learning style?

A My student is self-motivated, organized, and can work well both independently and with others. They are focused on their goals and can chart their own path to the future.

B My student is spontaneous and can lose focus at times. They may need motivation and support to stay on track with their learning.

C My student is motivated but really needs personal support to stay focused on completing tasks and remembering coursework deadlines and due dates.

D My student thrives in group settings and learns best through visual learning.

What is your primary concern about enrolling your student in virtual school?

A I'm not sure online school will offer a quality, accredited curriculum that will challenge my student and meet state guidelines for graduation.

B I'm worried my child will miss interacting with other students and won't experience fun, adventurous learning activities like extracurricular activities, clubs, field trips, and school events.

C I'm concerned about the amount of time I'll have to commit to supporting my student in online school.

D I'm just not sure my student will be successful or happy in online school.

See next page for results

Results

Mostly As

If most of your answers were As, your student will most likely thrive in virtual school!

We know you still want to weigh your options, but based on your responses, your student has a great space in your home to engage in learning. You also are approaching online school with the right mindset and are considering virtual school for the right reasons. Your student approaches learning with the characteristics that will help them achieve success in online school.

View the enrollment checklist at Massachusetts Connections Academy to get the process started today.

Mostly Bs

If most of your answers were Bs, virtual school could be the right solution for your student and family.

You may have an ideal space for them to learn and the right amount of time to devote to supporting your student's success in online school, but you may want to consider making some adjustments to other factors in order to give your student the best possible opportunity to succeed.

It's best to do more research or talk to a current Massachusetts Connections Academy parent before making a final decision about virtual school.

Mostly Cs

If most of your answers were Cs, you may need to adjust some aspects of your family's lifestyle or environment to help your student succeed in virtual school.

Your student may have trouble focusing on their coursework in your home study environment. There are simple adaptations that can be made to better support your student. You can find more information about setting up a home learning space that helps students achieve success, along with organizational tips to help your student stay on track on the Massachusetts Connections Academy Resource Hub.

Also, if you have other obligations that may get in the way of fully supporting your student and keeping them motivated, you could consider sharing Learning Coach duties with another trusted adult. And, if having a reliable computer is a concern, check to see if the online school in your state will provide a computer for your student to use—some do, so don't be afraid to ask!

Mostly Ds

If you chose mostly Ds, we encourage you to do some more research about how online school works.

Virtual programs like Massachusetts Connections Academy offer a rigorous academic curriculum that requires motivation, organization, and cooperation from the Learning Coach and student. It's important to prepare for success!

If you have additional questions, check out our frequently asked questions to find the answers you need.

Attend An Event

Get answers to your questions and hear real experiences from enrolled families, alumni, and school staff during a live virtual event.

connectionsacademy.com/massachusetts-virtual-school/learn-more/events



"This has been extremely informational and makes me excited to enroll my children. I think they will thrive with everything I learned."

– Connections Academy Event Attendee

"Thank you SO much! This was incredibly informative and encouraging."

– Connections Academy Event Attendee

Enroll Now

If you're ready to help your child build the future they want, we're ready to help you enroll at Massachusetts Connections Academy.

Click to Enroll at Massachusetts Connections Academy

We know that deciding on a school for your child is a big decision, and we're here to help.

Call us at **800-382-6019** to connect with a Massachusetts Connections Academy representative and tell us about your student. We can answer questions to help you decide if Massachusetts Connections Academy is right for you.

Program and course offerings vary by school. Check the Massachusetts Connections Academy website for full details.