



The following questions were posted via chat during the SEL and Social Technology Use Webinar on July 13, 2020.

Q: How do you access Open Circle online?

A: Open Circle's digital curriculum is available to those who completed [Classroom Teacher Program](#) after July 2019 or have purchased access if they were trained prior to that date. However, there are [Literature Connection](#), [Gratitude](#), and [Mindfulness](#) resources publicly available on our [website](#).

Q: Will you have online Open Circle training for current teachers who haven't had the training?

A: Yes! To address the needs of our Open Circle community, while adhering to the importance of social-distancing, we have made the decision to convert our in-person [Classroom Teacher Program](#) professional development offering to a virtual platform for the upcoming 2020 training year.

Q: If we had OC training years ago, would we automatically have access to the digital materials?

A: Access to the digital version of Open Circle's curriculum is available to individuals that attended [Classroom Teacher Program](#) after July 2019. Those who were trained prior to that date can purchase access via our [Order Materials](#) web page. If you were trained prior to 2015 we recommend scheduling our [Curriculum Refresher Workshop](#) for your school/district. This workshop will update you on changes made to the curriculum in 2015 and each participant will have access to their grade specific digital curriculum.

Q: What are some of the Open Circle tip sheets referenced during the webinar?

A: Open Circle created a series of [COVID-19 Resources](#) that can be accessed on our website. We distribute tip sheets via email to those individuals that have completed Open Circle training and administrators at schools/districts that have implemented Open Circle.

Q: How can I find out about receiving the tip sheets? I have attended Open Circle training and I am subscribed to your emails.

A: Open Circle contacts our constituents via email when we create new tip sheets or in some cases we have distributed resources to address a current event (i.e. dealing with trauma after a local or regional incident). If you attended an Open Circle training session you will be automatically subscribed to our email list. If you are not receiving email you may have unsubscribed or we may have an error in the email we have on record for you. Please contact us at info@open-circle.org and we will verify your contact information and resubscribe you if necessary.



Q: How has Open Circle modified its curriculum to help teachers meet students' needs at home?

A: To address the urgent need for remote teaching resources, Open Circle created a [Remote Open Circle](#) tip sheet. This document takes select Open Circle lessons and provides suggestions on how they can be utilized when teaching remotely.

Q: Will the writers of Open Circle be sharing activities to promote the Crucial Cs remotely?

A: We have not created new lessons that explicitly provide ways to promote the Crucial Cs in a remote setting. We simply do not have the capacity at this time to create new lessons but are working on finding creative ways of increasing our capacity to do this. We do recommend teachers to review Crucial C's theory and chart in the resources section of the Curriculum and reflect on some of the ways you and your team are meeting your adult needs and the needs of the children.

Q: Will Open Circle develop lessons directly related to current events - remote learning, social distancing, coping with racism?

A: We are currently working on developing the capacity to develop new lessons. Like many of you, organizationally we are managing hiring freezes and budgetary constraints. However, in a recent eNewsletter, Open Circle's Director, Kamilah Drummond-Forrester stated, *"I've made it a priority to develop and lead workshops that link SEL with equity and racial justice... My vision is to incorporate elements of antiracism and equity into existing Open Circle lessons, and develop new lessons that speak to these issues directly, ...this approach is just as important as implementation in our [professional development program](#)."* To move this process forward, Open Circle recently formed an Equity Work Group.

Q: How many days a week do you suggest to use Open Circle if we are using distance learning?

A: It is important to remember that there are three primary vehicles for using the Open Circle program to teach and support student SEL development - Open Circle meetings, facilitation techniques and increasing the use¹ (integrating skills and creating opportunities for students to practice skills throughout the school day). Keeping this in mind, within the context of distance learning we invite each school community to determine what will work best for them regarding how often Open Circle meetings occur. However, we do recommend that educators use the facilitation techniques and find ways of integrating Open Circle vocabulary and skill practice during academic remote learning time. Each time educators are in contact with students (video calls, telephone calls, in-person), they should ask, *how are you feeling?* Student as well as educator wellbeing should be centered as important. Starting and ending class time with any one of the [mindfulness activities](#) is also recommended.

¹Open Circle Facilitation Skills and Increasing the Use of Open Circle Skills can be found in the Resources section of the Open Circle curriculum.