

# Ensuring Video Meetings are Accessible for All Students

How Microsoft Teams for Education compares with Google Meet and Zoom in providing an accessible experience in video meetings

## Objective

The goal of this study is to assess the availability and experience of using video meeting accessibility features in Microsoft Teams for Education, Google Meet, and Zoom.

## Key Findings

1. Teams for Education and Zoom provide a sign language view while Meet does not offer this possibility. This study found that setting up these features was far easier in Teams for Education than in Zoom.
2. Teams for Education offers the ability to specify sign language settings by default for individual users; while Zoom requires the organizer to turn on the feature on a meeting-by-meeting basis. Meet does not offer this option.
3. Teams for Education automates chat translation based on the user's settings and supports over 100 languages available.
4. Meet offers real-time caption translation in four languages, Zoom offers 20 languages, and Teams for Education offers over 40 languages and dialects.
5. All three video meeting platforms support background noise suppression and visual distraction reduction. Teams for Education adds the beneficial feature of automatically pausing Teams notifications when a user is in a meeting.
6. Teams for Education is the only platform that automatically save meeting chats for all users..
7. This study found parity when comparing how the three video meeting platforms accommodate visual and physical accessibility.

## Conclusion

As the prevalence of video meetings grows and the emphasis on providing an accessible and equitable education to all learners increases, schools must remain vigilant when evaluating the accessibility of video meeting platforms. Students come to video meetings with needs varying from language differences, such as being Deaf or hard of hearing or being a Multilingual Learner, to cognitive differences, like dyslexia or attention deficit disorder. All students, regardless of need, depend on video meeting platforms to access and engage with learning content, educators, and classmates.

Microsoft Teams for Education supports a more comprehensive and accessible video meeting platform for schools than Google Meet or Zoom. From simple, one-time sign language settings to instant captions with live translations and streamlined access to chat transcripts, Teams delivers a person-first platform that gives students and educators the tools they need to thrive.



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