

Strategies to Support Learning Along a Continuum of Internet Access

This handout presents strategies for bridging the digital divide during remote learning. The strategies are organized under four areas to support the development of remote learning plans along a continuum of internet access - from high-speed access to no access. The strategies presented here are not exhaustive but are curated from remote learning plans developed by districts across the United States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regional Educational Laboratory Central

Remote Learning Plan Strategies

	<u>Infrastructure</u> How will you build the infrastructure for delivering remote learning?	<u>Instructional Supports</u> What learning activities or resources will you use?	<u>Student Supports</u> How will you provide support and feedback to learners?	<u>Parent/Guardian Supports</u> How will you communicate with and provide support to parents?
Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-speed Internet • Free/low cost Internet programs • Access to Wi-Fi networks • Mobile hotspots • Mesh networks, fixed wireless broadband • Expanding Internet over phone lines (e.g., DSL) • Smartphone/apps • WiFi buses to create hotspot • Business/school Wi-Fi for upload/download 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online curriculum (complete curriculum offered through various organizations) • Professional Development (PD) or Professional Learning Centers (PLCs) for teachers for remote learning plans • Online activities (individual learning activities or lessons) • School Learning Management System (LMS) – Google Classroom, Schoology, Canvas, etc. • Recorded video/screencast from teachers • Podcasts • Apps • Social media • Instructional TV shows • Audio-only Zoom call • Packets (daily, weekly) • Regular conference calls with instructional staff • Real-life projects (class, cross-curricular) • Choice boards/list of self-directed activities to choose from • Home-based projects (cooking, woodworking, activities based on household items) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online classes and individual meetings • Feedback through LMS • Virtual office hours • Email • Social media • Teacher helpline/call center • Teacher calls to students • School phone linked to teachers' personal phones • Virtual meetings/audio-only meetings for students • Mail • Bus pickup of completed materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit/scaffolded directions included with all activities • Websites with parent info, including resource links • Teacher-recorded video/screencast focused on instructions to parents • Communication apps • Social media • Radio • TV • Newspaper • Group calls • Teacher call centers • Answer keys • Use of Google Voice or system to call from school phone instead of teachers' personal phones • Mail
Hybrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Wi-Fi zones • Public radio and TV (local access/PBS) • Texting (text and short videos) • Bus routes • Pickup/distribution locations • USB drives (to share and return materials) 			
Offline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail/prestamped envelopes • Free printing at businesses to distribute materials • Telephone • Bins of school supplies available at pickup locations 			

Resources for Connecting

The following resources provide guidance for schools and districts planning for or refining their remote learning plans.



<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>How will you build the infrastructure for delivering remote learning?</p>	<p>Instructional Supports</p> <p>What learning activities or resources will you use?</p>	<p>Student Supports</p> <p>How will you provide support and feedback to learners?</p>	<p>Parent/Guardian Supports</p> <p>How will communicate with and provide support to parents?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) Coalition for eLearning has an ongoing compilation of resources, including research, communication tools, lessons, and partners. • Several organizations have compiled lists for free or low-cost Internet access, including SETDA and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. The Federal Communications Commission is implementing the Keep Americans Connected Initiative, which includes a list of companies that have agreed to support connectivity. • REL Central and REL Midwest have also compiled resources about developing remote learning plans and supporting access to technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach from Home is a compilation of tools and resources to support teachers in providing remote instruction. • REL Central and REL Northeast and Islands have compiled resources related to supporting students with disabilities online. REL Northeast and Islands has also put together a memo about English learner students. • The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has created a guide for developing a continuous learning plan, including resources and planning tools. • The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has created learning materials for preschool and early elementary, including video, interactive games, apps, and hands-on activities. This site also includes links to professional development materials and out-of-school learning materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Sense Media has created a list of messaging apps designed to facilitate school/home communication. • The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) and the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence have shared resources about supporting student social emotional growth and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Education have created a set of resources related to talking with children about COVID-19. • The Center for Parent Information and Resources has compiled resources for parents, including guidance for the U.S. Department of Education; information on COVID-19 in various languages; and tips for telecommuting and working from home, schooling from home, and coping and relieving stress. • The Maine and Iowa Departments of Education have shared resources to support parents in remote learning. • Common Sense Media has shared links to a variety of home learning resources.