



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Memorandum

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TO: Interested Persons

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SUBJECT: Resources Pertaining to K-12 Education in Response to COVID-19

Summary

In the midst of school closures across the state due to the COVID-19 outbreak, schools and state agencies are working to ensure that K-12 students continue to receive academic support. Legislative Council Staff is committed to providing members of the Colorado General Assembly and other stakeholders with resources on K-12 education matters that are essential to guiding and understanding state action, and supporting parents in ensuring their children's educational success during this time. This memorandum has been published to share resources created by state and national organizations focused on K-12 education, and will be updated as more resources become available.

Resources from the Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) created a [website](#) with COVID-19 resources that includes frequently asked questions, a map of locations where students can access free meals, and guidance on working with children at home during school closures. A list of all school meal sites throughout the state can be found [here](#).

CDE also published an [online learning resource list](#) broken out by subject matter and grade level. Included in the list are resources provided by external entities to support student learning at home.

Resources from the Colorado Department of Higher Education

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) has compiled [resources](#) to help provide guidance to institutions of higher education, college students, and high school students enrolled in concurrent enrollment courses during the COVID-19 closures. In addition, the department has listed

links to each college or university's COVID-19 specific [websites](#) that include revised school calendars and instructions for distance learning.

Resources from the Federal Government

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published [guidance for administrators of K-12 schools and childcare programs](#) to be used in the interim, as well as [suggestions for safe school settings](#).

The U.S. Department of Education has a [website](#) to be used as a resource for schools and school personnel.

Resources from Other Organizations

This [website](#) from the National Conference of State Legislatures includes information on school meals, accountability, college readiness, and the latest state legislation to help schools monitor the virus outbreak.

The Charter School Institute (CSI) has published a [website](#) with COVID-19 updates as a resource for families. CSI is also offering guidance on [model specific remote learning](#).

Resources for parents. The following are free, online resources aimed at assisting parents in supporting their students' educational progress while schools are closed. The list of resources below was provided by the State Educational Technology Directors Association and the National Parent Teacher Association.

- [Bookshare: A Benetech Initiative](#): an e-book library that makes reading easier for people with barriers such as dyslexia, blindness, and physical disabilities.
- [College Board](#): offers free online and printable SAT practice tests.
- [Common Sense Media](#): list of free online events and activities for kids at home.
- [Edutopia](#): list of apps for teaching children with special needs.
- [Georgia Virtual](#): a digital learning resource for professional learning and shared content, as well as 120 free online courses.
- [Graphite](#): combines ratings from educators with reviews from its own expert team of reviewers who evaluate each tool listed on the site using a research-based rubric to assess each tool's engagement, pedagogy, and support.
- [Great Minds](#): free, recorded daily lessons for grades K–12 of Eureka Math, K–8 of Wit & Wisdom (ELA), and 3–5 of PhD Science.
- [Khan Academy](#): provides practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom.
- [Learning Heroes](#): includes various resources to support learning at home.
- [Maryland State Department of Education](#): lists multiple resources for parents providing at-home education.

- [Michigan Virtual](#): provides content of over 70 high-quality online courses free to educators and parents as a resource to supplement student learning.
- [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#): provides an at-home activity guide to turn any room into a classroom.
- [OER Commons](#): a digital library and network through which users can access open education resources.
- [Smithsonian Distance Learning](#): useful lessons for parents looking to support at-home learning.
- [Springboard Collaborative](#): a two-week, at-home coaching plan for parents that is available in both English and Spanish.
- [The New Teacher Project](#): resources for students learning at home.
- [Virtual Field Trips](#): access one field trip per weekday from March through May to international museums, national parks, zoos, farms, and more.
- [WURRLYedu](#): online music teaching platform and creation tools for students, including 1,000 standards-aligned lesson plans for K-12 in general music, modern band, vocal ensemble, jazz, and non-Music subjects.

Access to Internet for Online Classes

Xfinity WiFi hotspots across the country will be available for free to anyone who needs them, including non-Xfinity internet subscribers. Find the closest hot spot to you [here](#). Xfinity is also pausing data plans (giving you unlimited data for no additional charge), agreeing not to disconnect customer's internet service if the customer contacts them about their inability to pay their bill during this time, and increasing the speed of internet for low-income customers.

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) [Lifeline Program](#) offers monthly wireless internet access for \$9.25 a month for low income-families. The FCC's web page provides information on program eligibility and the application process.

AT&T is offering unlimited wireless broadband to newly activated school-issued tablets, 4G LTE-enabled laptops, and hotspot devices at no cost for 60 days. Learn more about the offer, [here](#).