Helping Your Child Learn at Home
What to Do When You Don’t Have Access to the Internet

Preparing for Distance Learning Without the Internet

- My child’s teachers and related service providers are aware that I do not have access to the Internet.
- I know where and when to pick up printed/paper materials for my child.
- I know if and when my school provides Internet access, perhaps through mobile hotspots or by accessing the school’s wi-fi outside the building.
- I know how to download materials on to my device to access them later and how to use jump-drives.
- I have devices that are necessary for learning (laptops, tablets, etc.), if required.
- I have asked the school whether they can provide additional materials to support my child’s learning (calculators, graph paper, laptops, etc.), if necessary.
- My child has access to basic materials (pencil, paper, etc.) to support academics.
- If I have multiple children, I have thought about how to organize and share resources (workspace, family support, etc.) among them.
- Based on an IEP/504 Plan, my child has access to identified tools to help with learning – reading guides, graphic organizers, assistive technology, etc.
- I know how to use accessibility features that may help my child learn in the home (closed captioning, speech-to-text, text-to-speech, etc.).

Participating in Distance Learning Without the Internet

- I have a schedule set up for my child that identifies time for completing schoolwork.
- My child has a place to work that is quiet and comfortable.
I know when and how to return completed assignments to be graded.

I know how to check with my child's teachers to make sure assignments were received.

My child's teachers have provided me with appropriate activities that we can complete at home without the Internet.

I feel comfortable helping my child with schoolwork or I know who to call for help.

**Problem Solving and Collaboration**

- I know how to reach my child's teachers and therapists, and I communicate with them regularly.
- I know who to contact for technology support, such as accessing mobile hotspots or downloading files.
- I know how to reach my child's related service providers (therapist, psychologist, medical personnel, etc.).
- I can use available resources such as PBS television and library reading programs to supplement my child’s learning.
- I am regularly informed about my child’s progress and can share my concerns.
- My child’s teachers and I have discussed how to support behavior and participation in learning.
- I have access to materials that will help me support my child’s behavior (timers, visual schedules, etc.).

My child is able to communicate with other family members or friends for social experiences (phone calls, writing letters, etc.)

I can contact other parents and friends to talk about schoolwork.

**Alternate Ways to Access the Internet**

- Contact local service providers to ask for lower-cost Internet plans and indicate that your children need access for school.
- Contact your wireless provider about the possibility of using your phone as a hotspot to access the Internet.
- Consider purchasing a hotspot – this might be less expensive than regular wifi and may be useable in areas without good Internet options.
- Visit your local library – computers are typically available for public use.
- Go to a public place (fast-food restaurant, coffee shop, local recreation center, etc.) that offers free wi-fi.

**Additional Considerations for Learning at Home**

- My child has a schedule that includes recess and breaks. This schedule works for our family.
- I understand that learning at home will look different from a traditional school day.
- I celebrate the successes of learning at home and share them with my child’s teachers.
- I know that juggling home, school, and work is tricky, and I need to give myself a break.
- I make sure to leave time for family fun!

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor

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