

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL LEADERS

Update 24 March 2020

- **Middle Rio Grande Pueblo Consortium** is exploring adding the equivalent of 5G with their licensed Educational Broadband Spectrum
- **Zoom** meetings lifted caps on Zoom Meetings software
 - Zoom: <https://blog.zoom.us/wordpress/2020/03/13/how-to-use-zoom-for-online-learning/>
- **State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)** has a number of resources surrounding “eLearning” that includes content, lessons, teacher resources, case studies, home access, and so on.
 - SETDA eLearning: <https://www.setda.org/main-coalitions/elearning/>
- **The New Mexico State Library:**
 - Caution – Keep that “social distance” even in the parking lot. While most libraries provide free internet and wireless connectivity to the general public, we must remain cautious with the message that is shared. Currently, the State has recommended limiting the size of public gatherings. We support this recommendation to assure the containment of this Covid-19 disease.
 - Meraki - Those libraries having a new Meraki Solution, we have the ability to implement a splash page on the wireless network that can require consent prior to accessing the internet. On this page, each library can craft their own message and include cautionary information regarding the best practices with Covid-19.
 - Resources - The New Mexico State Library provides numerous resources that are available to the general public. One of the resources that can greatly benefit K12 students is Brainfuse. Brainfuse provides online homework help, writing, and live tutor assistance. This is a FREE service. All resources can be found on <http://www.elportalm.org/>
- **E-Rate Central:**
[American Federation of Teachers - Preparing for Distance Learning](#)
[Schoology - Distance Learning Readiness Kit](#)

The three main areas which schools and districts will be focusing on when looking at providing Distance Learning capabilities are:

 - Internet access (for students and staff) at home or other locations

Several national and local internet service providers (ISPs) are announcing their plans to either; provide free internet access (using their public hotspots), help defray the costs of internet access, remove late fees or financial punishment for late or missing payments on existing services, and increase the capacity and capability of their services. The list of ISPs announcing their intent to assist with connectivity during this time is growing daily so check with your local providers to find out what they can do for you.

Some larger ISPs have supported reduced cost internet access for households that meet the federal requirements to receive free or reduced lunches at school and this program is being expanded by some to include all new customers.
 - Computing devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) to access educational content and systems

This is an area where there have been far fewer companies announcing programs or offers which would help families acquire the tools necessary to use distance learning tools. Some schools and districts are well positioned to provide a computing device to staff and students, at school or at home, but not everyone has this capability. There are options in some areas to borrow devices from local libraries or other organizations but many schools and districts will need to identify their own resources which could be used by those families in need.

Unfortunately, now is not the optimum time to try and put into place a new initiative to provision computing devices to students so many families may be required to find what they can and use that for their remote learning.

- Software to support remote communication, collaboration, and education

Perhaps the best news is in the area of a Learning Management System (LMS) as several providers of these services, or other collaboration tools that can facilitate remote learning, have been announcing their support of closed schools by offering free or reduced cost solutions and support. The following is not a complete listing of options but provides some of the larger companies that have always, or are now, offering free and reduced cost distance learning solutions.

- **Google** ([Classroom](#), [Hangouts](#), etc.)

Google is rolling out free access to “advanced” features for Hangouts Meet to all G Suite and G Suite for Education customers globally through July 1st. That means organizations can host meetings with up to 250 participants, live stream to up to 100,000 viewers within a single domain, and record and save meetings to Google Drive.

- **Learning A-Z** <https://www.learninga-z.com/site/lp2/covid19>

- *Learning A-Z is offering both Raz-Kids and Headsprout licenses to all educators, at no cost, through the end of the school year.* Both licenses include our Kids A-Z portal.
- Raz-Kids includes hundreds of leveled e-books and reading materials for students. All books are available in e-book and audio formats, provide digital tools for students to notate the text, and have a comprehension quiz which accompanies the book.
- Headsprout provides 80 Early Reading episodes, typically for K-2 students, and 50 Reading Comprehension episodes, typically for 3-6 students. This is self-directed, adaptive learning so would work exceptionally well in this environment.

Learning A-Z is an education technology company dedicated to expanding literacy through thoughtfully designed resources. We currently support teachers and students all over the state of New Mexico.

- **Microsoft Teams**

Microsoft is offering a free six-month trial globally for a premium tier of Microsoft Teams. Microsoft says it will also roll out an update to the free version of Teams that will lift restrictions on how many users can be part of a team and allow users to schedule video calls and conferences.

- **Zoom**
Although Zoom has had a free version of its software available for some time now, the solution came with a 40-minute time limit on all video conversations. Zoom has recently lifted these limits and schools can sign up for an account to help provide communication to students and staff that are working and learning remotely. [Sign up here.](#)
- **Edmodo**
As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread and impact school communities, they want to do what they can to help. Teachers, students, and parents can use Edmodo to communicate and continue education—always for free—even when in-person learning isn't possible.
- **ClassDojo**
ClassDojo helps you instantly communicate and engage with all families and students, so you can keep building those relationships while school is closed.
It is 100% free, and you can get set up in minutes.
- **Moodle**
To support educators and learners in this troublesome situation, Moodle is offering their Premium App Plan for free until the 30th of April.
To get your Premium Moodle App for free, you just have to register your site on the upcoming Moodle Apps Portal, which will be ready on March 23.
- **Schoology**
Offers a [Distance Learning Readiness Kit](#)
- **Scholastic**
Scholastic has curated a free digital learning hub designed to support virtual learning plans: [Scholastic Learn At Home](#) allows open access to daily learning journeys divided into four grade spans—Pre-K–K, Grades 1–2, Grades 3–5, and Grades 6–9+, covering ELA, STEM, Science, Social Studies, and Social-Emotional Learning.
- **Other Resources**
Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions due to School Closings
Free or reduced cost online educational resources
- <http://www.amazingeducationalresources.com/>

The goal of this document is to share information about resources available to students, parents and educators, to allow school instruction to continue during the NM schools closure. Please submit updates to John Chadwick, Educational Technology Coordinator and E-Rate Coordinator at Public Education Department, John.Chadwick@state.nm.us.