

Supporting Students' Learning During COVID-19 School Closures with Distance Learning

How can this help?

As schools close their doors as part of public health measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, educators are faced with how to support the diverse needs of all learners when students are not in school. As part of distance learning, schools and districts should consider:

- unequal access to technology;
- diverse affective/emotional responses to home lives and the pandemic;
- responsibilities learners hold as part of their homes and communities;
- access to safe and supportive learning spaces; and
- access to peers and/or adults to support learning and sense-making.

This guide recognizes that solutions will not be – nor should be – “school as usual,” simply delivered in a virtual environment. Instead, this resource was developed by members of the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) to provide guidance around how to support student learning during these unique circumstances. **Importantly, this toolkit is designed for temporary school closure. PED will provide further, comprehensive guidance in the case of extended closure.**

Things to Consider

- **The physical and emotional well-being of students, educators, families, and communities are the priority at this time.** The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting our communities. Health and healing during this crisis should be prioritized. An initial reaction may be to “fill the day” with academic activities, but school leaders should consider how they can ensure conversations and next steps focus on supporting meaningful, purposeful learning while prioritizing social-emotional and health needs.
- **Leveraging the assets of home-based learning, rather than trying to recreate school, can provide meaningful learning experiences that connect to students' home lives, interests, and identities.** Trying to support school-like learning in a home setting may frustrate teachers, students, and families. Educators should consider how to give students agency to pursue learning that is relevant to them via resources that are available at home and with meaningful family engagement as possible.
- **What makes sense in this context may not be best practices normally.** One tension to navigate is that the available options for learning during sudden school closures might not be consistent with best practices for teaching and learning. Leaders & educators may find themselves making recommendations that would otherwise make them uncomfortable in an effort to be practical and humane. Educators should consider how to make the best of difficult circumstances and be clear about how recommendations during school closures in response to the pandemic compare to teaching and learning with students in the classroom.
- **Efforts will need to adapt as this situation unfolds.** It is still unclear in many states how long schools will remain closed. Current thinking is largely focused on planning for two-three week school closures, and solutions during a short closure may need to be revisited if closures extend further into the school year.
- **Given the wide range of opportunities learners will have, grading of work should be approached with caution.** Many students will not have consistent access to digital devices or the internet at home, or they may have to share devices with others in the household. Visiting public spaces to complete technology-based assignments may not be an option. Further, students may have competing demands on their time. Learning at home should be valued as an opportunity to extend student thinking. Grading of work that requires resources that are not available to all students can deepen inequities.



Features of Supportive Resources

Consider how materials or approaches you are suggesting can be used to:

- Support **flexible scheduling and limited technology access**.
- Engage students in **meaningful explorations, investigations, and/or sense-making**.
- Encourage students to engage in **activities that already happen in their homes with materials that families already have** (especially so families do not need to purchase additional supplies).
- Help students make **explicit connections to their interests and identities**.
- **Invite family members to be a partner** in students' learning
- Provide students with **choices for how they engage, what they investigate, or how they demonstrate learning**.
- Support students in **self-reflection** related to content and process to support their learning.
- **Exercise sensitivity** when referencing the current pandemic as a possible phenomenon to investigate.

Learning experiences should look more like...	Learning experiences should look less like...
Flexible goals and structures for learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● extended time for learning and reflection ● use of commonly available materials ● purposeful selection of learning targets ● allowing students to explore their interests ● meaningful, manageable tasks and projects ● opportunities to learn without the use of devices or the internet 	An attempt to recreate school at home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● assuming a strict “school day” schedule ● requiring special materials (e.g., lab or materials not commonly found at home) ● pacing with the planned scope and sequence ● assigning readings to stay “caught up” ● packet of worksheets and busy-work ● all learning experiences happen virtually
Purposeful teacher-student interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● optional opportunities to connect with teachers and peers virtually and at a variety of times ● teachers providing coaching, feedback, and encouragement ● encouraging students to engage in learning and reflection with their families and communities ● encouraging self-reflection on what students learn and how they learn it 	Teacher-centered instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● virtual lectures/classes that all students synchronously attend ● teachers delivering information and assignments ● teacher instruction and feedback as the primary mode of facilitating learning
Authentic learning in the home setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● connecting learning to household activities, like cooking, fixing things, or gardening ● asking students to identify relevant problems in their lives and engage in design cycles to address them ● allowing students to deeply explore learning of interest through investigation to build understanding and practice over time 	Assignments to “get through” content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● emphasizing memorizing content or “checking off” tasks on lists ● asking students to solve contrived or hypothetical problems, or complete design projects that value form over function ● trying to cover content through a volume of activities or skipping from topic to topic

For examples of what it might look like to engage students in learning experiences that reflect these attributes, check out this [sample 3rd grade learning menu](#) developed by our colleague in Oklahoma.

Attending to Equity

- **Ensure that learning recommendations are not limited by access to technology.** Student learning should not be solely dependent on access to devices and the internet. Encourage approaches that can be pursued without technology and/or asynchronously to set students up for success.
- **Recognize that students and family members may be available to play different roles in learning when at home.** Students and families may need to juggle home, caretaking, school, and work responsibilities. Consider a menu of options for learning experiences that allow for different types and levels of engagement.



- **At-risk students and students in special populations may be especially vulnerable during this time.** Families in poverty may be experiencing several of the considerations described above, along with additional concerns including regular access to meals, utilities, health services, or shelter. Undocumented students and students receiving special education services may face particular challenges in accessing resources that they need. Encourage educators to prioritize the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all students.
- **Learning recommendations should leverage student interest, identity, and agency as assets.** Equitable learning experiences should be both responsive to the current need as well as meaningful to the learners experiencing them.



The PED is providing the following resources for use by educators during the temporary closure of the public schools in New Mexico. They can provide practice for students as well as educational support to families to help keep students academically engaged. These resources may not be evidenced-based or aligned with New Mexico content standards.

Please, first consult your district-adopted core instructional materials and the vendor for those materials to inquire about the resources they may be able to provide for distance learning. [Here is a list of additional resources \(print and digital\) for distance learning being offered in support of core instructional materials that are on the NM adopted multiple list.](#)

CCSSO runs the High-Quality Instructional Materials and Professional Development (IMPD) Network that currently supports eight states, including New Mexico. Its purpose is to significantly increase the number of districts selecting high-quality, standards aligned instructional materials and to increase the number of pre-service and in-service teachers receiving professional development grounded in the use of those materials. Through the work of these network states to identify and leverage high-quality instructional materials, CCSSO is sharing recommendations for high-quality materials to be used for remote learning due to COVID-19 school closures. [Click here to download the list.](#)

Quick Links

Instructional Resources	Mathematics	English Language Arts	General Language Development	Science
Social Studies	Career and Technical Education	Multiple Subjects	Virtual Field Trips	School Leaders & Educators
Assessment Resources				

Instructional Resources

Link	Description
Instructional Models from Instructional Partners	On this page, you will find an overview of the three instructional models we are seeing across partners, guidance for determining an instructional model that fits your context, and concrete resources for supporting your model.
Open Up Resources	Various resources from Open Up Resources to aid in supporting student learning through the school closure.
Resources from TNTP	This page has links to many online resources vetted for quality; some are free, some require a paid subscription.
Learn from Home Toolkit from PBS	A Learn from Home toolkit for schools, including instructions on how to fast-track eligible students without internet access
MobyMax	MobyMax helps struggling learners quickly catch up to grade level and closes learning gaps for all students. Moby Learning, Quick Checker, Moby Interactive, and Moby Rewards are all award-winning solutions individually and when combined. They create an effective solution to find and fix learning gaps for every K-8 subject. MobyMax is offering free licenses to schools or districts affected by recent school closings. Administrator needs to call (888)793-8331 to get it set up. Check website for info.
Delivering Virtual Mini-Lessons	Webinar for educators on Delivering Virtual Mini-Lessons, from Achieve the Core
STEM Teaching Tools	Guidance for Supporting Science Learning During COVID-19

Mathematics

Link	Description	Grade Levels
The Year Game from NCTM	Each year since 1996, NCTM has posted The Year Game in which mathematicians, scientists, teachers, and students work to create expressions equivalent to the numbers 1-100 using only the digits in the year (ie, 1996 or 2020).	Grades 6-12
YouCubed	YouCubed Mission: Our main goal is to inspire, educate and empower teachers of mathematics, transforming the latest research on math into accessible and practical forms. We know from research how to teach math well and how to bring about high levels of student engagement and achievement but research has not previously been made accessible to teachers. (from Stanford University)	Grades 6-12
Dan Meyer's 3-Act Math	Dan Meyer's 3-Act Math tasks	Grades 6-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khan Academy's Response to COVID-19 and Recommendations • Letter to Teachers and Parents • Different Ways of How to Use Khan • Khan Student Quickstart Checklist • Khan Teacher Quickstart Checklist 	<p>Provides grade level/course practice from preschool through college-level mathematics. Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons and notes • Video support • Practice problems • Quizzes and Mastery Challenges • Immediate feedback • Self-paced • Keeps track of progress when you are logged in • Progress based on level of mastery • Add a teacher or parent as a coach to show them what you're working on and how you're doing 	Grades PreK-16

English Language Arts

Link	Description	Grade Levels
Scholastic Learning at Home through Classroom Magazine	Scholastic Learning at Home: Day-by-day projects to keep kids reading, thinking, and growing.	Grades PreK-8
Age of Learning	<p>This resource contains 3 learning sites!</p> <p>ABCmouse.com® Early Learning Academy, is a comprehensive, research-validated curriculum for preschool through second grade, available on all major digital platforms and used by tens of millions of children to date.</p> <p>Adventure Academy™, is the first-of-its-kind educational massive multiplayer online game (MMO), serving elementary and middle-school-aged children with thousands of learning activities in a fun and safe virtual world.</p> <p>ReadingIQ® is a digital library and literacy platform for children 12 and under designed by reading experts to improve literacy skills, with many thousands of expert-curated books from leading publishers.</p>	<p>PreK to 2nd (ABC Mouse)</p> <p>Elem to Mid school (Adventure Academy)</p> <p>Up to 12 years old (Reading IQ)</p>

Book Creator	Book Creator can be used in any subject, with any grade level. So you should focus on assignments that allow the student to get creative and demonstrate their understanding. This could literally be anything you've been working on in class!	Grades PreK-12
https://reading.ecb.org/	A reading comprehension resource for elementary students and teachers. We focus on eight research-based strategies: Using Prior Knowledge, Making Connections, Questioning, Visualizing, Inferring, Summarizing, Evaluating and Synthesizing. Try the online interactive activities, or click below to find out how to get our engaging 15-minute video programs. (Student activities in English and Spanish)	Grades K-6
Home Learning - 3 Weeks of Reading and Writing Activities	Home- Learning --- Three weeks of Reading and Writing Activities Videos of books being read aloud (child listen to the book or read the book independently with the sound off), a writing response activity for each book, text-dependent questions, and a comprehension quiz.	Grades 1-4
Story Online	Trade books read by actors/celebrities - Reading aloud to children is shown to improve reading, writing and communication skills, logical thinking and concentration, and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a lifelong love of reading. (At the end actor who read the book talks about the message in the story).	PreK - 5
www.vocabulary.com/	Interactive and responsive vocabulary games that helps build vocabulary.	Grades 4-12
ELA Guidebooks	ELA Guidebooks is an English language arts curriculum for whole-class instruction. Made by teachers for teachers, the guidebook units ensure all students can read, understand, and express their understanding of complex, grade-level texts. They provide ELA materials for grades 3-12 including lesson plans and a video on how to use the guidebooks.	Grades 3-13

General Language Development		
Link	Description	Grade Levels
http://www.english-4kids.com/	Online interactive lessons to learn English. This resource is multilingual.	Elementary
https://www.eskidstuff.com/	English learning lesson plans, flashcards, worksheets, songs, readers & crafts.	Elementary
http://en.childrenslibrary.org/	International Children's Digital Library	Grades K-8
https://pacoelchato.com/	Paco el Chata (online versions of textbooks from Mexico's Ministry of Education)	Grades K-12
https://agreenmouse.com/spanish-for-children/ks2-and-ks3-spanish/ https://agreenmouse.com/french-for-children/ks2-ks3-french/	A Green Mouse – Website to learn Spanish and French.	Grades K-12
https://www.esl-lab.com/easy/	A website with short scenario to listen to with short multiple choice questions	All grades
https://www.digitaldialects.com/	Learn up to 30 world dialects online!	All grades
https://www.abcya.com/	ABCya provides over 400 fun and educational games for grades PreK through 6 . Our activities are designed by parents and educators who understand that children learn better if they are having fun.	Grades K-6
https://newsinslowspanish.com/ https://newsinslowenglish.com/	Learn Spanish with streaming news and culture Learn English with streaming news and culture	Grades 4 and up
https://www.duolingo.com/	Website to learn new languages	All grades

Science		
Link	Description	Grade Levels
PhET Interactive Simulations	Free science and math simulations for teaching STEM topics, including physics, chemistry, biology, and math, from University of Colorado Boulder.	Grades 6-12
Mystery Science	Mystery Science includes mini lessons 15 to 30 min. to full lessons 45 to 90 min.	Grades K-6
Legends of Learning	Legends of Learning: can be imported into Google Classroom, can create a playlist to deliver educational gaming experience tied to NGSS	Middle School
Online Teaching Resources by NSTA	Online Teaching Resources You Can Use - A List Compiled by NSTA Collection. NSTA has compiled a list of resources to assist teachers with this challenge. The external resources in this collection have been shared by educators, but have not been reviewed by NSTA.	Grades K-12
https://www.exploratorium.edu/learn	At-home learning activities from the Exploratorium.	Grades K-12
http://stem-works.com/	<i>Welcome to STEM-Works</i> , a resource for teachers, mentors, parents, STEM professionals, volunteers, and everyone passionate about getting children eager to learn about science, technology, engineering, and math.	Grades K-12
https://www.openscienced.org/	Freely available, high-quality units aligned to the NGSS. Some of the resources maybe modified for distance learning.	Grades 6-8

Social Studies		
Link	Description	Grade Levels
https://www.history.com/classroom	Provides reading and videos with guided questions on a variety of Historical topics	Grades 6-12
Library of Congress for Teachers	The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library's vast digital collections in their teaching.	Grades K-12

Career Technical Education (For Educators)	
Link	Description
http://www.nmffa.org/caert-curriculum.html	CAERT Curriculum
https://napequity.org/products/career-guidebooks/ohio/	CTE Career Guidebooks (Micro messaging)
https://www.cteonline.org/	CTE Online
https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/opportunities/distance-learning-resources/	Distance Learning Resources
http://www.careerpathways-nm.com/new-mexico-career-solutions/	Career Exploration (PED & Department of Workforce Solutions)
https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/4bb916e7-d1cf-4098-8afe-f01d0bcf024d	Career Exploration (from Utah Board of Education)
https://www.constructioncenterofexcellence.com/curriculum	Construction Center of Excellence
https://academy.autodesk.com/	AutoDesk Design Academy
http://dma.edc.org/	Integrated Media and Digital Design (Curricular Suite)
https://www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/	ArtSource Curriculum for Performing Arts
https://www.lacma.org/education/teachers	LACMA: Media Arts aligned with California State Standards
https://www.coursera.org/courses?query=film	Coursera Film
http://www.filmeducation.org/	The Film Education Resource [states for UK educators but have been able to download everything]
https://ocw.mit.edu/search/ocwsearch.htm?q=film	MIT Open Courseware - various courses available
http://www.hosa.org/node/413#	Various E-Learning Modules from MIT, EdX on Health and Medicine
CDC Educational Activities	The Junior Disease Detectives; Operation Outbreak
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34411	Be A Hero: Youth Emergency Preparedness Curriculum K-12 (English)
https://www.ready.gov/kids/resource-library?vf%5B0%5D=language%3A55	Ready Kids: Resource Library for Emergency Preparedness in multiple languages
http://www.hosa.org/sites/default/files/19-20%20PH%20Jan17.pdf	Know the Signs: Stop Opioids Before They Stop You!
https://www.iscb.org/bioinformatics-resources-for-high-schools/lesson-plans-for-bioinformatics-curriculum	Bioinformatics

https://www.icevonline.com/curriculum/family-consumer-sciences/courses/hospitality-services	Trends In Hospitality and Tourism
https://www.ustravel.org/programs/toolkits	Toolkits for Teaching: Ready-made communication resources to help the travel community speak with one voice on a variety of critical topics. From the U.S. Travel Association
https://www.education.gov.pg/TISER/documents/curriculum/teachers-guide-upper-secondary-tourism-studies.pdf	Teacher Guide from Dept of Education on Tourism Studies
https://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/curricula-and-lesson-plans	Nutrition Curricula & Lesson Plans from the Department of Agriculture
http://www.foodspanlearning.org/lesson-plans/ [or] http://www.foodspanlearning.org/	Food Citizen Project through Johns Hopkins University
Hotel Management Course	The Hotel Management course focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to pursue staff and management positions available in the hotel industry. This in-depth study of the lodging industry includes departments within a hotel such as front desk, food and beverage, housekeeping, maintenance, human resources and accounting needed for the profession.
CTEOnline - Computer Hardware Safety Curriculum	Computer Hardware Safety Curriculum
Principles of Manufacturing Course	In the Principles of Manufacturing course, students will explore careers in the manufacturing industry, the production process, logistics, inventory control and much more. Career success is also covered with lessons over the interview process.
Design and Manufacturing Course from MIT Open Courseware	Design and Manufacturing course from MIT Open Courseware
http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/category/lessons/grades-9-12-lessons/	Various engineering topics and resources

Multiple Subjects

Link	Description	Grade Levels	Subjects
BrainPoP Access for Educators	Offering free, unlimited use of BrainPOP to any school, anywhere, that is closed due to the coronavirus during the period of their closure. Consider using BrainPOP's animated movies, assessment resources, and creative tools for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Distance learning •Support for projects and homework •Keeping students on track with their studies (Aligned to CCSS, NGSS and U.S. State standards) Teachers will need to sign up for an account.	Grades PreK-12	All Subjects
NYTimes Learning Section	Various opportunities to read and write about current events and real life topics in English Language Arts, Social Studies, English Language Learning and Arts, Science and Math and Current Events.	Grades 6-12	All Subjects
https://www.abcya.com/	Practice math and reading skills with games and leveled readers. (Program reads books to students as needed.)	Grades PreK-6	ELA, Math
https://ed.ted.com/	RED-Ed has videos with lesson ideas on a wide variety of subjects	Grades 6-12	ELA, Math, Science Social Studies
https://www.matchfishtank.org/	Match Fish Tank has free year-long curriculum (or an upgraded, for-purchase version) for all core subjects; lessons include teacher notes, printable/shareable problem sets, and guidance for giving feedback on student work.	Grades 3-12	ELA, Math, Science Social Studies
https://www.oercommons.org/oer	Provides lessons and resources in all content areas for grades K-12. They have forged alliances with over 500 major content partners. Users can search across over 42,000 vetted and fully-indexed OER ensuring a high level of resource relevancy and discovery.	Grades PreK-12	ELA, Math, Science Social Studies
https://ed.ted.com/	TED-Ed has videos with lesson ideas on a wide variety of subjects	Grades 6-12	ELA, Math, Science Social Studies
National Geographic Educator Resources	National Geographic: Includes articles and activities on a variety of topics, articles can be read to students.	Grades PreK-4	ELA, Math, Science Social Studies
https://www.curriki.org/	Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Arts, ELL/ESL and more -- Curriki revolutionized the way digital learning content is distributed and shared. For over 10 years we have made the best curriculum, lessons and on-demand content free, open, and accessible to all.	Grades PreK-12	ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Arts

https://www.weareteachers.com/dice-games/	Offline activities for supporting student learning in various subjects, dice games	Grades 2-10	ELA, Mathematics, Music
https://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum	EngageNY-This link provides Common Core Curriculum for English Language Arts and Mathematics	Grades PreK-12	ELA, Math
ck12.org	Each lesson has a reading passage, videos, optional review questions, and self-graded practice questions. The lessons can be assigned to Google Classroom and it puts the grade in that students got on the practice questions (students must get 10 practice questions correct to get 100%).Has options to have translated in Spanish.	Grades K-12	Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Health, Engineering,
NAS Jet Propulsion Laboratory	NASA: Jet Propulsion Laboratory: Wide variety of classroom lessons	Grades K-12	Science, Art, Engineering, Math and technology
https://newsela.com/	Articles with quizzes that can adapted to different reading levels.As the ability to assign a quiz and a writing assignment. Allows be linked to Google Classroom and Canvas. Lexile Levels: 400L-850L (but they can be adjusted).	Grades 3-18	Science, ELA, Social Studies
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/	Games and videos - history, science, geography	Elementary	Science, Social Studies
https://solveme.edc.org/	Critical thinking puzzles for various levels of ability	Grades 3-12	STEM
https://www.discoveryeducation.com/coronavirus-response/	Science, Social Studies, Math, and STEM -- connecting subject matters with real life applications-- click on "Experience Access Request form" for Covid-19 access.	Grades 6-12	STEM

Virtual Field Trips

Link	Description	Grade Levels
Farm Food 360	Virtual tours of different farms (in Canada) including Sheep, Dairy Cow and Grain Farms - and the processing of the products from farms (dairy, fruit etc.)	All grades
Monterey Bay Aquarium	Ten webcams to observe the wonder of the ocean from home. There are also non-fiction texts to read about the animals.)	All grades
San Diego Zoo	Videos, read-alongs, games and activities about animal life, care, and preservation.	All grades
Virtual Tours of Museums in Spanish	Virtual tours of museums and activities in Spanish	All grades
Yellowstone National Park Virtual Tour	Virtual Tours to explore Yellowstone? You don't have to wait for your trip out here. You can start exploring now by virtually touring some of the main attractions around the park. Included with each tour is additional information about visiting in person. History, Geology, Geography, and Earth Sciences.	Middle and High School

Arts and Theater Lesson Plans for Teachers from the Kennedy Center	Art lessons plans that could be combined with the free museum, theaters, etc.	Grades K-12
--	---	-------------

School Leaders & Educators	
Link	Description
ZOOM	With a free Zoom Meetings license, users have access to all the audio and video conferencing and group collaboration features needed, including unlimited number of video meetings with up to 100 participants, Breakout rooms, Private group chats, and online support. Easy to download and deploy Zoom using client application or via any web browser, so users can start communicating right away.
ASCD Tips for Transitioning to Online Learning	Tips for transitioning to technology that will help teachers prioritize what's most important in terms of their instruction and their connection with students and help students feel a sense of normalcy.
Here's how to create a community	You can use edWeb.net to create free online communities for your staff, schools, and districts that can be public or private, and include many tools for collaboration. Use an edWeb community as a hub where you can plug in additional tools, like a Zoom room, for example, if you're using Zoom for video conferencing while working remotely.
Article 1 Article 2 Article 3 Article 4 Article 5 Article 6	Various link from the ASCD for school leaders on approaching and dealing with school closures.
Open Up Resources	Various resources from Open Up Resources to aid in supporting student learning through school closures.

Assessment Resources

Link	Description
Official SAT Practice (English and Spanish)	Prepare for the SAT® with Official SAT® Practice! Get personalized practice recommendations based on your PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, or PSAT™ 8/9 results. The flier is available in English and Spanish.
Sign Up for Khan Academy	Khan Academy provides personalized help with what you're studying or to learn something completely new.
New Mexico Summative Assessments Help & Support	Students, teachers, and parents can find practice tests, answer keys, instructional supports, and reference sheets for the New Mexico Summative English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Assessments. These resources are available in English and Spanish.