



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

COVID-19

Guidance and Resources for School Districts

Updated March 18, 2020

OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is continually monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak in the United States.

The MDE is working with the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding preventive measures and the response to COVID-19.

This document provides guidance to districts on free resources available to support learning activities in the home. This document will be updated as new information becomes available.

MSDH Coronavirus Hotline: 877-978-6453

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

KEY WEBSITES

- [*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Information and Guidance*](#)
- [*Mississippi State Department of Health \(MSDH\) COVID-19 Information*](#)
- [*U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Information and Resources*](#)

DISTRICTS

Online Learning Considerations

Many districts have requested additional guidance regarding the feasibility and legality of providing online learning in the event of an extended school closure. For districts considering a transition to online delivery, the following should be taken into consideration. These include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring all students in the school or district will have equal access to the learning and required materials, including technology.
- Ensuring the online learning system can effectively support the district’s different learning and teaching needs, including the ability to provide differentiated instruction as well as one-on-one support for students who need it. Regardless of where the learning is happening, supports identified on a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) must be provided if the district is operating.
- Ensuring students can access the assessments associated with dual credit coursework.
- Ensuring the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information.
- The ability to provide school meals.

Taking a traditional school environment online is not a simple task – nor is it one that should be attempted without serious consideration of the practicality and risk.

The resources below may be helpful to districts and teachers looking for off-site learning opportunities during an extended school closure.

All Kids Network

Free educational resources, worksheets, writing prompts, themed coloring pages, craft and snack ideas for parents, teachers & caregivers.

www.allkidsnetwork.com

Age of Learning **PreK-8**

To help the tens of millions of families in the U.S. whose schools are closed due to the coronavirus, Age of Learning provides free home access to ABCmouse, Adventure Academy, and ReadingIQ, leading digital education programs for preschool through middle school students.

<http://www.ageoflearning.com/schools>; access code: SCHOOL7771

Algebra Nation **6-12**

As districts are facing difficult decisions due to closing schools, Algebra Nation and Study Edge (co-creator of Algebra Nation), in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education, are here to lessen the burden around distance learning plans. As a reminder, we offer free, digital access to our 6th-8th Grade Math, MSCCR Algebra 1, MSCCR Geometry, and Algebra 2 courses as well as SAT preparation materials to all school districts in Mississippi via funding from the Mississippi Legislature. We still have a limited supply of free Algebra 1 workbooks as well.

AlgebraNation.com/MS; use your district credentials

Study Edge **9-12**

Study Edge offers short concept videos, study guides, and practice problems for the following courses: Chemistry, Physics, Precalculus, Statistics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, and AP US Government and Politics. Study Edge videos are primarily meant to be a supplement to instruction but are a great resource for distance learning during this time. To gain free access to the Study Edge resources through the end of the school year, email info@StudyEdge.com.

<http://studyedge.com/app>

GoBoard **6-12**

An online tutoring platform developed by Study Edge, which combines video conferencing with an interactive drawing canvas, is available free of charge, as always. It is available on computers with Chrome or Firefox, or on our free iPad App. GoBoard has become the tutoring platform of choice for over 200 colleges, universities, and collegiate athletic associations since its launch in 2016.

<http://goboard.com/>

Any districts not currently using Algebra Nation should email Shauna@AlgebraNation.com with their curriculum and technology directors' contact information to set up free access for teachers and students.

AscendMath K-12

AscendMath is offering schools free access for up to 100 students through the end of April.
<https://ascendmath.com/coronavirus-offer/>

Amplify Reading K-5

Amplify Reading is a digital, adaptive, K–5 supplemental literacy program that provides remediation and enrichment for all students in building skills in decoding, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and close reading through age-appropriate adventures.

Amplify is happy to offer educators and students free access to a remote learning version of Amplify Reading for the remainder of the school year. Amplify is committed to helping you make instructional resources like Amplify Reading to students who may be unable to attend school, either currently or in the near future.

http://go.info.amplify.com/fy20_amplifyreading_readingsupplementalsforall_national_remotelearning_getintouch_getintouch

Brainspring K-12

During these unprecedented times, Brainspring is committed to doing what we can to support teachers and student learning. Until the crisis has passed, teachers trained in **Phonics First**® and **Structures**® may make the following resources available online so long as the resources are protected by a login and only accessible by parents, students, and staff of their school or district:

1. Phonics First® and Structures® lesson instruction components recorded by a teacher trained by Brainspring.
2. PDFs of the following documents:
 - Phonics First® and Structures® Curriculum Guides to share lesson pages for word and sentence dictation.
 - Phonics First® and Structures® Syllabication books to share student worksheets (and answer keys if needed)
 - Phonics First® Stories Any Members Area documents. These resources will be available in our Members Area by Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

BrainPOP **K-8**

Animated Educational Site for Kids - Science, Social Studies, English, Math, Arts & Music, Health, and Technology. During school closures, BrainPOP is offering free access to families.

https://go.brainpop.com/accessrequest?utm_source=bp-com&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=coronavirus&utm_content=coronavirus

CLSONline **K-12**

With school districts across the nation shifting to digital learning during this unprecedented time, school staff may need to adjust to teaching in a new way.

To help your staff transition to this different style of learning, we've developed a series of free 20-minute webinars. Feel free to share these links with your staff or colleagues in other districts.

Mar 17: [Digital Project-Based Learning](#)

Mar 18: [Classroom Management in the Digital Space](#)

Mar 19: [Authentic Digital Assessment](#)

Mar 20: [Activities and Resources for Digital Learning](#)

Mar 23: [Adapting to Digital Learning](#)

In addition to these complimentary webinars, please accept our offer for free 8-week access to our robust, *standards-aligned curriculum*.

<https://creativelearningsystems.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=68ff26f6455530984990d3e27701dff8&i=822A1050A111A9028>

College Board **9-12**

AP Central has been updated with information about flexible testing options for schools experiencing substantial disruption or closure and guidance for schools that plan to maintain AP instruction while students are at home. You can find the update here:

apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update

Here is a [one-page overview](#) of how AP teachers can use the free, daily online practice in AP Classroom to check student understanding of each topic and skill in the AP course and ensure that students are well prepared for exam day.

AP teachers can access these additional resources to help them get set up with AP Classroom:

- [Foundations](#). Learn how AP Classroom complements the new AP course and exam descriptions and offers students opportunities for practice and feedback throughout the year.
- [AP Classroom Demo](#). See a click-through demonstration of AP Classroom, which highlights how to assign, score, and interpret results from Topic Questions, Personal

Progress Checks, and teacher-created assignments and quizzes from the AP Question Bank.

- [AP Quick Start Videos](#). Watch short tutorials on the recent features added to AP Classroom.

Additionally, beginning in early April, free online video lessons developed by AP teachers will be available for the AP topics and skills typically taught in the final weeks of each AP course.

Comcast Internet **K-12**

Comcast is offering free internet service to low-income families during the coronavirus outbreak.

<https://www.internetessentials.com/>

CommonLit **3-12**

CommonLit is committed to providing free remote learning resources to schools affected by coronavirus. CommonLit's digital platform allows teachers to stay in touch with kids at home through customized directions and annotations, instant feedback on student in-text notes, and easy grading with personalized comments.

<https://www.commonlit.org/>

Curriculum Associates **K-8**

Given the recent developments of COVID-19 (coronavirus), Curriculum Associates (CA) has prepared a host of materials for educators to offer online learning. These CA materials are free to use for all, not just CA customers, and the intent is to help students continue learning during this challenging time.

www.i-Ready.com/athome

Edmentum **K-12**

If you need free options for curriculum, instruction or assessment for an intermediate time-frame, you will find [more information here](#). Additionally, [here](#) you'll find tools to help you plan for and execute e-learning days, for a short or extended period of time, designed to keep Mississippi students on-track and learning from home. [These free tools include:](#)

- Live webinars and OnDemand webinars focused on contingency planning
- K-12 printable resources
- Communication templates
- Virtual learning best practices

For our most up-to-date resources focused on school closures please visit:

<https://get.edmentum.com/e-learning-days/>. We'll continuously be updating this page

throughout the coming weeks and are committed to helping Mississippi schools navigate this uncertain time.

Epic! K-6

A free, expansive digital library for K-5 educators, featuring eBooks, quizzes, videos, and activities. The teacher dashboard allows teachers to assign books and quizzes to students and monitor their progress.

To keep kids reading and learning during a prolonged school closure, Epic is offering all our students free remote student access through the end of the school year (June 30).

<https://www.getepic.com/educators>

Great Minds K-12

Starting Wednesday, March 18, *Great Minds* is going to share—free to anyone—recorded daily lessons in Grades K–12 of Eureka Math, K–8 of Wit & Wisdom (ELA), and 3–5 of PhD Science. These lessons will be delivered by Great Minds’ own teachers and will be viewable on any device. Schools that have them should make every effort to send students home with their Eureka Math student books, PhD Science Module 4 logbooks, and Wit & Wisdom workbooks and core texts, if available. In addition, go here for access to the full *K-12 Eureka Math program*, free of charge.

iCivics 6-12

iCivics offers game-based learning for middle and high school social studies curricula. To help you continue to support your students during a school closure, we’ve put together a [blog with tips](#) from the iCivics’ Curriculum team for creating a remote teaching toolkit using lesson plans, infographics, games, and other free resources. We’ve also listed a few games below that might be relevant to assign during this time.

<https://www.icivics.org/>

Khan Academy K-12

Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. Khan Academy tackles math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more. The math missions guide learners from kindergarten to calculus using state-of-the-art, adaptive technology that identifies strengths and learning gaps. Khan has also partnered with institutions like NASA, The Museum of Modern Art, The California Academy of Sciences, and MIT to offer specialized content.

www.khanacademy.org

K12 K-12

In this uncertain time, K12 wants to help school districts meet the needs of teachers and students to continue the learning process. K12 Learning Solutions is prepared to immediately provide all Mississippi school districts with high-quality online content and teacher training for as long as it takes until students and teachers return to their classrooms.

- K12 www.k12.com is providing school districts in Mississippi up to 30 days free access to content and hosting which includes:
 - PEAK middle school and high school core courses
 - Stride core course content for grades K-8 <https://www.k12courses.com/stride>
 - Big Universe <https://www.biguniverse.com/> and
 - Tallo www.tallo.com
- Training for District Teachers and Staff
 - Complimentary pre-scheduled group synchronous webinars for administrators, mentors, and teachers to answer questions, provide the basics to getting started, and leveraging K12 curriculum and tools will be provided.

District Administrators may visit <https://www.k12.com/general-faqs/coronavirus-school-closing-solutions.html> or call (855) 593-7280 for additional information.

LearnZillion 3-12

LearnZillion provides free access to the grades 3-12 *ELA Guidebooks* curriculum. Check the [LearnZillion](http://www.learnzillion.com) website to see if additional curricula (EL Education and Illustrative Mathematics) are opened to free use shortly.

LearningExpress Library K-12

LearningExpress Library provides support to K12 students for academic skill-building and standardized test prep. Students have access to digital study guides, flash cards, ebooks, and practice tests. LearningExpress Library covers mathematics, social studies, science, and English skills as well as ACT Prep and Advanced Placement.

<https://www.learningexpresshub.com/ProductEngine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/libraryhome?AuthToken=magn1313>

MackinVIA K-12

MackinVIA is offering more than 2,000 free ebooks for K12 students. If your school does not have a MackinVIA account, now is the time to secure this free, multi-faceted, online education system. Using MackinVIA as an “at home” online learning center will help you keep your students on track and engaged. MackinVIA is easily accessed and can be integrated with your school’s SIS or LMS system. This offer goes through December 31, 2020.

<https://www.mackin.com/hq/digital/mackinvia/>

Students and teachers can have direct access to ebooks:

- **Mississippi Distance Learning Primary MackinVIA (PreK-8)**
 - <https://www.mackinvia.com>
 - Site Name: Mississippi Distance Learning Primary
 - Username: mde20201 | Password: mde20201

- **Mississippi Distance Learning Secondary MackinVIA**
 - <https://www.mackinvia.com>
 - Site Name: Mississippi Distance Learning Secondary
 - Username: mde20202 | Password: mde20202

MAGNOLIA Databases **K-12**

MAGNOLIA Databases contains various K12 student resources to continue learning at home such as: Great Websites for Kids, DOGO News, NASA Kids, TweenTribune by Smithsonian, and Science News for Kids.

<https://magnolia.msstate.edu/>; Access Code: magn0897

Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) **PreK-12**

MPB PBS can be seen in every Mississippi household. The trusted educational programs are tied to online curriculum already created. A teacher can use this trusted content to build lessons to teach from a distance, or parents can use this content to facilitate conversation on relevant educational topics.

[PBS LearningMedia](#) is a free resource to teachers and parents/caregivers. Some teachers have been using this resource in their classrooms already. It works well with Google docs platform and it's easy to use.

Additionally, the PBS KIDS 24/7 Channel airs on MPB stations across the state. These programs offer educational programming, from literacy to math to the arts to social/emotional content. Some of the programs are connected to lessons on the [PBS LearningMedia](#) website. For more information about this platform, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfR-NfOyOQ4>.

There is also PD on PBS LearningMedia for teachers, online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/pbslearningmedia>.

There will be a free interactive online training on Wednesday, March 18, for teachers, scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CDT. Registration for the hour-long session is online at <http://public.pbs.org/DistanceLearningResources>.

MysteryScience **K-5**

This website includes a series of K-5 science lessons, many of which are easy to do from home.

mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning

Newsela **K-12**

Help students process the news, stay physically and mentally healthy, support the health of their families and communities and bring relevance to learning.

<https://newsela.com/about/distance-learning/>

NoRedInk **3-12**

NoRedInk offers grammar instruction and writing practice for 3rd-12th grade. We've always provided free access to a portion of NoRedInk, and we're expanding our free offering today in light of COVID-19. Here's what you can count on from us — regardless of whether your school is open or closed — for the rest of the school year:

- Hundreds of free practice topics that allow your students to work independently toward mastery on a host of important writing, language, and critical thinking skills.
- Free access to our entire Premium *Guided Drafts* suite, which scaffolds the writing process for students as they craft their essays. All rubric items are fully customizable, and you can assign writing across a wide variety of genres.
- Free access to NoRedInk's *Quick Writes*, a lightweight, low-friction way to get students writing regularly across the curriculum.
- Free access to NoRedInk's Premium progress tracking, allowing you to assign curriculum and track student growth by state and national standards.

We've also created [this guide to using NoRedInk during school closures](#) to help you ensure that your students continue improving their writing skills while learning remotely.

<https://www.noredink.com/>

OpenSciEd **6-8**

OpenSciEd provides free access to grades 6-8 [OpenSciEd Science Units](#).

Scholastic Learn at Home **K-6**

Day-to-Day projects to keep kids reading, thinking, and growing. Separated by grade level, each day includes four separate learning experiences, each built around a thrilling, meaningful story or video. Kids can do them on their own, with their families, or with their teachers.

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

Stride **K-8**

Stride offers content for K-8 English & Math, 3-8 Science, English I, English II, US History, Algebra I, Geometry and Biology. Stride is an engaging, adaptive learning tool that motivates students toward mastery and rewards learning with games. Benchmark and formative assessments built into the platform will help educators diagnose skills gaps, provide differentiated intervention, continuously monitor progress, and modify classroom instruction to maximize student achievement even when they are not in the classroom.

www.stridelogin.com

Twig Science **K-5**

The Twig Science Reporter website has useful science-based material for any elementary science class. Teachers can browse videos, photos, text, or activity resources that match upcoming lessons. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, Twig Science Next Gen has set up a special site to offer support and resources that can be used for remote learning in the event of school closures.

They are also giving away *free access to Twig Science Tools*, the award-winning supplemental resource site with 3000+ 3-D videos, visuals, and activities.

There is a specially created fun song video that encourages kids to wash their hands to keep infections at bay: <https://youtu.be/2r017X6gWhw>

<https://www.twigsciencereporter.com/>

Walkabouts **PreK-2**

To keep students moving and learning while at home due to closures related to *COVID-19*, the Walkabouts platform is temporarily available at no cost to those implementing remote learning. General login credentials are available for those who do not already have access to Walkabouts.

To get started, teachers and students can log in at <http://info.activedinc.com/covid> with the general usernames and passwords provided below for each grade level.

- The Pre-K username is PKfree.
- The kindergarten username is Kfree.
- The first-grade username is 1Free.
- The second-grade username is 2Free.

The password for all of these accounts is walkabouts.

Zearn K-5 Mathematics **K-5**

Zearn has made its entire curriculum, including 400 hours of digital lessons with on-screen teachers and supportive remediation, available for free. To access these materials, go to the [Distance Learning Resource Center](#) for:

- Quick-start instructions for using Zearn Math programmatically as part of a distance learning plan
- Parent/caregiver packs to send home to quickly orient to Zearn Math (in English and Spanish, more languages coming)
- Daily webinars for administrators, teachers, and parents to walk through quick-start instructions and parent/caregiver packs. Each webinar will offer 'office hours' with time for questions with our team.

The Mississippi State Board of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi School for the Arts, the Mississippi School for the Blind, the Mississippi School for the Deaf, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability in the provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the above-mentioned entities:

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