

Educational Resources for Students and Families

Some districts and schools have been, or will soon be, providing students and families with educational resources to help students continue learning while schools are closed. In addition to those resources provided by local districts and schools, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) pulled together this list of available resources that can support students and families while schools are closed. This list is not comprehensive, and DESE does not endorse these products. We are making the list available to families and caregivers as a way to support engaging students in learning while they are out of school.

[Family Guides to the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards](#) (Created by DESE)

These guides to the Massachusetts learning standards help families understand what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade. Designed to help families and teachers work together to support learning, the guides are available in English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, and Simplified Chinese. Promotional materials advertising these resources are also available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/highstandards/>

DESE and WGBH Partnership for Educational Resources

PBS LearningMedia, <https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/>, and **WGBH's new online Distance Learning Center**, <https://www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center>

The Department is partnering with WGBH to bring educational resources to students and families through television and digital media. WGBH has created [a distance learning site](#), and we hope to reach as many students and caregivers as possible. [PBS LearningMedia](#) is a FREE digital repository of tens of thousands of high-quality media resources that are contextualized for educational use. The resources span disciplines for grades PreK-12, are aligned to national and state standards, and include videos, comprehensive lessons, interactive activities, and support materials (teaching tips, background readings, and student handouts). Here are just a few collections on PBS LearningMedia to explore:

- **[Bringing the Universe to America's Classrooms](#)**: Earth and space science, created in collaboration with NASA. Grades K-12.
- **[AMERICAN EXPERIENCE](#)**: History and social studies resources from one of public media's flagship broadcasts. Grades 4-12.
- **[ARTHUR](#)**: Beloved characters keep the focus on community, civics, and social-emotional learning. Grades PreK-5.
- **[Molly of Denali](#)**: The MOLLY OF DENALI™ collection offers videos, digital games, lessons, teaching tips, and activities with a focus on informational text. Grades PreK-2.
- **[Math at the Core Middle School](#)**: Engaging media and integrated activities, all aligned with the Massachusetts mathematics standards . Grades 5-8.
- **[Inspiring Middle School Literacy](#)**: Self-paced lessons include videos, interactive activities, note taking, reading, and writing to present students with engaging science, social studies, mathematics, and English language arts topics. Grades 5-8.
- **[NOVA Education Resources](#)**: Authentic, real-world science learning. Grades 7-13+.

Digital resources designed for remote learning and available free of charge:

English Language Arts and Literacy

Keep your child reading every day.

- CommonLit, <https://www.commonlit.org/en> – A free collection of fiction and nonfiction texts for grades 3-12. Includes an annotation tool, guiding and discussion questions, translations in various languages, and texts read aloud.
- Great Minds, <https://greatminds.org/>: [Great Minds](#) has daily lessons in Wit & Wisdom (English language arts) available for free for students in grades K–8 . These lessons will be delivered by Great Minds’ own teachers and will be viewable on any device.
- Heggerty, <https://www.hegerty.org/download-assessments-and-resources>: Free activities to build foundational reading skills. These are best for ages 4-6.
- Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com/>) and OverDrive (<https://www.overdrive.com/>): Many local public libraries use these two apps to allow users to borrow digital books for free. Visit your local library’s website and look for the section on digital resources.
- StoryLine Online, <https://www.storylineonline.net/>: Hear quality children’s literature read aloud and see illustrations.

History, Social Studies, and Civics

- iCivics, <https://www.icivics.org/games>: iCivics offers free, engaging civics content, including lesson plans and games for students to play digitally, content about media literacy, and Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. Government and Politics prep.
- EVERFI, <https://everfi.com/partners/k-12-educators/financial-education/>: Offers interactive financial literacy and social and emotional learning lessons. They have a bank of free digital lessons that can be accessed by [registering](#) as a student or a teacher.
- Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>: This website is geared specifically at preparing AP U.S. History students virtually. It includes primary sources, essays, videos, and study guides aligned with the AP curriculum.
- National Constitution Center, <https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/games>: In addition to the interactive Constitution tool, they host several educational resources and games.
- Stanford History Education Group, <https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons>: The Reading Like a Historian curriculum is free with registration and offers ready-to-go lessons on world and U.S. history based on primary source investigations.

STEM [Science and Technology/Engineering, Mathematics, Digital Literacy and Computer Science]

- [Code.org](#): Provides learning resources that help students learn about computer science and programming on their own. Offerings include [Computer Science \(CS\) Fundamentals for K-5](#) and online courses and labs for [middle and high school](#) (CS Express, App Lab, Game Lab, and Web Lab).
- Great Minds, <https://greatminds.org/>: Free daily lessons available in grades 3–5 science and grades K-12 Eureka Math. These lessons will be delivered by Great Minds’ own

teachers and will be viewable on any device. In addition, access to the full [K-12 Eureka Math program](#) is available for free.

- Khan Academy, <https://www.khanacademy.org/>: Khan Academy has outlined [support for parents and educators](#) on how to use their resources during remote learning. Khan Academy is a free resource for students, teachers, and parents with a library of lessons covering kindergarten through early college math, grammar, science, history, plus AP® courses, SAT® preparation, and more. Available in 40 languages.
- PhET Online Simulations, <https://phet.colorado.edu/m/>: A library of online simulations that students can play with and explore to investigate scientific and mathematical models. Can be sorted by grade level.
- [Smithsonian Science How Webcast](#): These webcasts originally aired live from the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. They're great for students in grades 3-8 and are optimized for students in grades 3-5.
- ST Math, <https://www.stmath.com/coronavirus>: A web-based visual instructional program that leads to deep conceptual understanding of math. ST Math is offering parents free access through June 30 for grades K-8.
- Zearn K-5 Mathematics: [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
 - Daily webinars for administrators, teachers, and parents to walk through quick-start instructions. Each webinar will offer 'office hours' with time for questions with the Zearn team.

Physical Education

- Cosmic Kids Yoga, <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>: Provides videos on yoga, mindfulness, and relaxation.
- GoNoodle, <https://www.gonoodle.com/>: Free movement and mindfulness videos.

Arts (Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theater, and Visual arts)

- Media Arts: Pencil Madness, <http://pencilmadness.com/app>: Students can use a dashboard of options to create a numerous layered effects similar to the concepts learned in Photoshop.
- Music: [Beepbox Music-Making On Your Home Computer](#): Support your child's music learning using this free online platform. No special equipment is needed to use this online tool for sketching and sharing instrumental melodies.
- Visual Art: Get local! The Drawing Act Project is happening right now here in Massachusetts! Anyone can participate by submitting a drawing this spring. The full directions for the drawing lesson is [outlined in this flyer](#). In addition, the Incredible Art Department's Art Teacher Toolkit, <https://www.incredibleart.org/links/toolbox.html>, has engaging visual art lessons that can be delivered at home. Creative art activities and games are available at <https://www.incredibleart.org/links/artgames.html>.

General Online Learning Resources (All or Multiple Content Areas)

- Brainpop, <https://www.brainpop.com/>: Free resources and tools that develop critical, computational, and creative thinking skills across the curriculum, especially for younger children. Available in Spanish, French, and English.
- Listenwise, <https://listenwise.com/>: Supports listening comprehension with stories and non-fiction in English language arts, social studies and science. Subscriptions are free.
- Newsela, <https://newsela.com/>: Digital subscriptions for free in English language arts, social science, and science and supports social emotional learning.
- [Scholastic Learn at Home](#): General videos and learning activities.
- [TechforLearners.org](#): Searchable database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching, allowing educators to search for free and discounted tools and services by grade level, product type, and subject matter. The site will soon include additional resources for parents and students.
- WatchKnowLearn, <https://www.watchknowlearn.org/>: Free educational videos in all content areas.

Resources for English Learners

- Khan Academy, <https://www.khanacademy.org/>: Available in 40 languages, Khan Academy has outlined [support for parents and educators](#) on how to use their resources during remote learning. Khan Academy is a free resource for students, teachers, and parents with a library of lessons covering kindergarten through early college math, grammar, science, and history, plus AP® courses, SAT® preparation, and more.
- ColorinColorado, <https://www.colorincolorado.org/coronavirus>: This bilingual website has compiled resources for educators and families of English learners.
- Duolingo, <https://www.duolingo.com/>: For students to practice conversational English.
- [Immigrant Connections](#): From YouTube channels to multilingual reference guides, the site has compiled a comprehensive resource list to assist English learners and immigrant parents support the temporary home education of their children.
- [Listenwise](#), <https://listenwise.com/>: Supports listening comprehension with stories and non-fiction in English language arts, social studies, and science. A subscription is free and includes supports for English learners.
- [Newsela](#): Digital subscriptions for free in English language arts, social science, and science and supports social emotional learning and English learners.

Supporting Students with Disabilities

- The Massachusetts Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) has created an [open-access resource folder](#) for Massachusetts educators in order to exchange educational resources. General education and special education teachers are encouraged to share resources through this online forum. For ease of use, MCEC has created individual folders by grade level, from preschool through secondary transition.
- Special education teachers, general education teachers, related service providers, and administrators are encouraged to reach out to students and families by phone, email, and other means of communication in order to ensure that students with disabilities can access educational resources provided by the district.