

# Information for Families Regarding “Distance Learning”/Remote Learning for Students with Disabilities

## US Department of Education Statement on Distance Learning for Students with Disabilities

On March 21, 2020, the US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued a [Supplemental Fact Sheet](#) Addressing the Risk of COVID 19 in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Schools While Serving children with disabilities.

That document says:

*Although federal law requires distance instruction to be accessible to students with disabilities, it does not mandate specific methodologies. Where technology itself imposes a barrier to access or where educational materials simply are not available in an accessible format, educators may still meet their legal obligations by providing children with disabilities equally effective alternate access to the curriculum or services provided to other students...Consider practices such as distance instruction teletherapy and tele-intervention, meetings held on digital platforms, online options for data tracking, and documentation. In addition, there are low-tech strategies that can provide for an exchange of curriculum based-resources, instructional packets and written assignments (p.2).*

## What parents can do with their children when working remotely from home or in a distance learning format

- Provide flexible schedules and structures for learning.
- When designing “at home learning”, be sure to provide extended time learning and reflection and realistic schedules for distance learning.

## Other Resources

- Take a look at Khan Academy [school closure schedules](#) for preschool through grade 12. These samples incorporate physical and mental breaks, fun activities such as virtual field trips and backyard scavenger hunts, and a [distance learning survival guide](#).
- ADDitude, an organization that provides information and resources on supporting students with ADD and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) for parents and professionals, created a [sample home learning schedule for elementary school students with ADHD](#).
- If your child is having difficulty with content or is viewing a website that has a difficult for them to read, they can enter the website URL in the free program found at [rewordify.com](#) and the content will be reworded to a more accessible Lexile level for them. Text can also be copied and pasted into the text generator for the same purpose.
- Audio texts that support several content areas for all grade levels; Common Sense Media has created [The 25 Best Podcasts for Kids](#) and the [10 Must-Listen Podcasts for Tweens and Teens](#).

- [TED-Ed talks](#) or [TED talks for students](#)
- [NPR's Student Podcast Challenge](#)
- [Current Events through News-2-You](#)
- [Project Based Distance Learning](#)
- [Student choice boards and learning menus](#)
- Kindergarten through high school resources and courses on the [K-12 Remote Learning](#) page of the Open Educational Resources Commons website.
- Lesson plans for ELA and Math as well as guidance on integrating accessible technology at [Power Up What Works](#).
- [Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center](#)
- The [National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes](#) hosts a frequently updated webpage of guidance and resources
- [Education videos](#) for students who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for pre-school through grade 12 in core content as well as life skills, wellness and creative arts.
- [ObjectiveEd.com](#) creates digital curriculum for students who are blind or visually impaired.
- [The National Federation of the Blind's website](#) provides guidance on and resources for providing distance learning to students who are blind or visually impaired.
- [Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules \(AFIRM\)](#) provides many resources to support students with autism, including an article and packet entitled "Supporting Individuals with Autism through uncertain times".
- [Social Emotional Learning-PBIS rewards](#) provides an article focused on teaching social-emotional learning in the classroom, including suggestions and practices for implementation
- [LD online](#) provides an article with background information to help understand social-emotional learning and students with disabilities.
- [edPuzzle](#)