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## DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE

The purpose of this memo is to provide online resources for educational and training services in response to COVID-19. As COVID-19 mitigation strategies are resulting in more online and distance learning opportunities, employment and training partners are encouraged to creatively and with maximum flexibility continue to support students in achieving their educational goals.

### **Free or Low-Cost Internet Access**

The [California Emerging Technology Fund](#) has provided access to affordable offers, as well as a number to call 1-844-841-INFO (4636) to assist with free/low cost internet.

Several companies throughout California are offering free or low-cost internet access to students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<b><i>Company</i></b>	<b><i>Service Offerings</i></b>
<i>AT&amp;T</i>	Providing free access to <a href="#">AT&amp;T WiFi hotspots</a> .
<i>California Connects Charter</i>	Students are eligible for <a href="#">California Connects mobile hotspot service</a> Offering <a href="#">free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access</a> for 60 days. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395.
<i>Comcast</i>	Offering two months of free Internet service through the <a href="#">Comcast Internet Essentials</a> program.
<i>T-Mobile</i>	Providing unlimited data to all <a href="#">current T-Mobile and Metro customers</a> who have data plans for the next 60 days.
<i>Sprint</i>	Providing <a href="#">unlimited Sprint data for 60 days</a> .
<i>Verizon</i>	<a href="#">Verizon is waiving late fees and suspending service termination</a> for customers negatively impacted by the global crisis.
<i>NDIA</i>	The National Digital Inclusion Alliance has a list of <a href="#">Free &amp; Low-Cost Internet Plans</a> that includes several services in addition to those above, as well as links to information about some of the services.

## **Digital Literacy**

### **Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment**

At [DigitalLiteracyAssessment.org](https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org), you can learn exactly how proficient you are with your digital skills. You can also monitor your success over time, and even get a certificate of completion for your work if you participate in a sponsored program.

### **Google for Education**

[Applied Digital Skills](https://www.applieddigitalskills.org) is a free, online digital skills curriculum. This online, video-based curriculum includes lessons for a wide range of learners. Instead of teaching digital skills with an instruction manual, the Applied Digital Skills curriculum uses a series of videos to guide learners through creating a project from scratch. This means that learners who complete a lesson leave with a useful project, such as a resume, a college planning sheet, an interactive story, and more.

### **EdTech Center @ World Education**

[Edtech.Worlded.org](https://edtech.worlded.org) provides guidance and resources to implement distance learning programs on the [Tips for Distance Learning](https://www.worlded.org/tips-for-distance-learning) webpage.

### **Public Library Association**

The Public Library Association's, [DigitalLearn.org](https://www.digitallearn.org), is an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant-funded online hub for digital literacy support and training.

## **Virtual Video Conferencing Resources**

The following are all free video chat applications that are also available for mobile devices. All applications require the user to create or sign in with an account. The mobile application can be download through [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.whatsapp), [Apple Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/whatsapp/id333903271), or [Microsoft Store](https://www.microsoft.com/store/apps?cid=ms936366645287).

### **WhatsApp**

Features include: a web and desktop version that uses and synchronizes to your phone account number. Group videos with up to 256 people at once. Uses your phone number and address book to connect with your contacts who also have WhatsApp.

### [Zoom Meeting](#)

Features include: a web and desktop version, a free Basic plan that allows up to 100 participants with a 40 minutes limit on group meetings. Prices change with plans. Ability to record meetings. Host provides meeting ID or link to participants.

### [Skype](#)

Features include group videos up to 24 people on HD video call. Available by Microsoft for all mobile devices. Web and desktop version available.

### [Google Duo](#) or [Google Hangouts](#)

Features include: the ability to sign in using Google account and use participants' email to video conference.

### [Facetime](#)

Only available for Apple iOS and MacOS devices. Group video calls with other iOS users.

## **Community Colleges**

- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office maintains the [Chancellor's Office COVID-19 resource page](#) updated daily with memos, recommendations and common questions/answers related to the pandemic and its impact on California's community college system, including [new financial aid rules and income benefits for college students](#).

Educational practitioners can find COVID-19 resources, information, and community within the [Vision Resource Center](#).

[California Virtual Campus - Online Education Initiative](#) has resources to help students transition to online learning. The page also details the companies offering **free or low-cost internet access** across the state.

- Colleges may continue to pay federal and CalWORKs work study to students while physical campus sites are closed, even if students are unable to work their scheduled hours. [Federal: COVID19 Announcement](#); [CalWORKs: ACWDL 3-30-20 CALWORKs](#)

Noteworthy Items related to Financial Aid from [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) regarding COVID19](#):

- Community College students may withdraw from courses at no penalty. Withdrawals that result from the crisis will be classified as an "excused withdrawal" and will not count against a student's academic progress standing

and will not negatively impact their eligibility for financial aid. Students can also receive refunds on enrollment fees if they withdraw.

- Colleges may include COVID-19 related disruptions as a basis for appeal of loss of financial aid due to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) even if not specifically articulated in the institution's SAP policy.
- Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution or as estimated financial assistance for calculating financial aid.

### **California Department of Education (CDE)**

[CDE Information and resources](#) regarding coronavirus (COVID-19).

Free to low-cost [Adult Education classes](#) for adults 18 and older.

### **English Language Learners**

*Adults:*

[CDE Programs](#) (Statewide)

[USA Learns](#) (online) is a free website that teaches English skills to immigrants.

[Futuro Health](#) (Statewide) Spanish to English online learning program designed to prepare participants for a career in allied health. Includes exclusive access to a success coach upon enrollment and career pathway support in allied health.

[Immerse \(Orange County\)](#) is a VR language-learning platform, connecting language students and language instructors live.

[MandarinX \(Los Angeles\)](#) facilitates five in-house designed courses to help learners understand different facets of Chinese life.

*All ages:*

- [BrainPOP ELL](#) Short, animated movies as well as games, quizzes and interactive features. Users practice the four principle language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- [Colorín Colorado](#) Offers resources for families that can be used for distance learning with English learners. Includes resources in response to the COVID-19 school closures.

- [CommonLit](#) A collection of reading passages in all literary and nonfiction genres for grades 3–12. Reading passages are available in Spanish.
- [Duolingo](#) Free language acquisition tool similar to Rosetta Stone.
- [Education.com](#) Features digital resources, tools, and learning materials.
- [English Media Lab](#) Free interactive learning.
- [International Children's Digital Library](#) A library for children.
- [Learning English](#) News and information for English learners.
- [Listen and Write](#) A dictation and cloze creator.
- [My Writing Coach](#) Writing lessons aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) task types.

### **California Adult Education Program (CAEP)**

- [CAEP school locator](#) page.
- [CAEP COVID-19 page](#) for Educators.
- [Outreach and Technical Assistance Network \(OTAN\)](#), the [California Adult Literacy Professional Development Project \(CALPRO\)](#), and [Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems \(CASAS\)](#) are the three state leadership projects that support California adult education.

### **Workforce Skills**

- Digital skills training and online courses can be found at [Google Digital Garage](#)
- [Linkedin Learning](#) provides on-line courses webcasts, eBooks, infographics, courses, templates, and tip sheets.
- A new scholarship program at [Udacity](#) offers retraining opportunities and Nanodegree programs for recently laid-off workers.
- [Coursera](#) streaming on-demand videos in subjects like business, computer science, data science, and language learning.
- Healthcare content at [Careerstat](#) for skills and careers aimed frontline workers.

- [Cell-Ed](#) enables adults to acquire literacy, language, and workforce-ready skills through a personalized mobile solution.
- [Futuro Health](#) provides exclusive access to online courses and success coach in allied health careers.
- [GCFLearnFree.org](#) from the Goodwill Community Foundation offers more than 200 topics, including computer and internet skills, job search guidance, adult education, and skills for today's economy.