

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources

Distance Learning

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Remote Learning Strategies

1. **Ensure students have safe ways to access the Internet; if not possible, consider ways to provide alternatives for students who may not have readily-available access at home.**
2. **Use [Loom](#), [Screencastify](#), [Screencast-o-Matic](#), or a comparable screen recording software.**
3. **Draft and announce expectations with parents during this time.**
4. **Replicate bell-ringers and regular routines digitally. Some ways to replicate bell-ringers are by creating interactive polls for students to start a class (tools like [Mentimeter](#))**

Remote Learning Strategies

- 5. Provide opportunities for all to be heard and to have someone to talk to. You can do this by running virtual staff meetings, keeping general conference lines open for teacher, scheduling small group interdisciplinary meetings for teachers to share distance learning strategies with each other, using virtual scheduling for students who may need to talk to a guidance counselor ([You Can Book Me](#), [Calendly](#), etc.).**
- 6. Keep classroom calendars up-to-date with expectations for self-pacing to-dos, and upcoming classroom conference calls.**
- 7. Encourage student collaboration with group projects and activities they can work on from home. Group projects can be assigned using [Google Docs](#), [Google Slides](#). Students can work together to create their own blogs or websites.**

LMS and Communication for Distance Learning

- **Blackboard**: Most known for their Learn platform for organizing classrooms. They've released some resources on the best ways to use their platforms during this time [here](#).
- **Canvas**: Similar to Blackboard. Provides a free account for teachers [here](#).
- **Class Dojo**: 100% free. Used heavily in K-5 for keeping in touch with parents, managing classrooms and building community.
- **Edmodo**: Communication, collaboration, and coaching platform for schools. Allows for discussions and other resources to be found from their library.

LMS and Communication for Distance Learning

- **Google Classroom**: Free service for creating, distributing, and grading assignments, as well as general announcements. Google has also expanded supports in response to COVID-19 allowing for more video-conferencing capabilities. [Read more here](#).
- **Moodle**: Open-source free LMS. Allows for calendar management, file management, and tracking of student progress.
- **Pronto**: Communication platform for chat and video as well as announcements. They announced supports for teachers [here](#).
- **Remind**: Free accounts for classrooms that allow for messaging with students. Premium upgrades allow for wider community engagement statistics and for longer messages.

Distance Learning for Class Presentations

- **Apple Keynote**: Apple's version of PowerPoint. Free with Mac.
- **Buncee**: Create visual representations of content for media-rich lessons, reports, newsletters, and presentations. 30-day trial offered [here](#).
- **Google Slides**: Free PowerPoint alternative. Easy sharing and integration with Google Classroom.
- **PowerPoint**: Powerful presentation tool. May require an Office 365 subscription to truly be helpful. In the case where your school district does not cover Office, you can get comparable features for free with Google Slides.
- **Slido**: Allows for more interactive presentations with live polls and insights. They announced educator supports for COVID-19 [here](#).
- **StoryboardThat**: Use tons of illustrations and create storyboards for free. There is a free trial as well [here](#).

Quizzing and Formative Assessment Distance Learning Tools

- **GoConqr**: Create quizzes from resources made by other users.
- **Google Forms**
- **Kahoot!**: Fun game-based site that allows you to run live multiple-choice quizzes with students. They're offering premium accounts [here](#).
- **Mentimeter**: Allows for the creation of interactive presentations (which you can use for quizzes), and integrates with Google Classroom.
- **Pear Deck**: Create custom questions in Google Slides and provide student-paced activities easily. More on ways to promote remote learning with Pear Deck [here](#).

Quizzing and Formative Assessment Distance Learning Tools

- **Poll Everywhere**: Run live interactive presentations; similar features to Mentimeter. There is a free account that supports up to 25 participants.
- **Quizizz**: Self-paced quizzes for students to review. You can use teacher-created quizzes if you don't want to create your own. 100% free.
- **Quizlet**: Quizlet Live is very similar to Kahoot and allows classrooms to run collaborative games. They have a plus plan that removes ads and adds some additional functionalities.
- **Socrative**: Create multiple choice, true/false and short answer quizzes as a quiz, game, or exit ticket. Free plan supports up to 50 students.

Tools that Promote Collaboration and Student Engagement

- **Answer Pad**: Gives a student response system and grades your quizzes. Ideal for BYOD classrooms. The free plan supports up to 200 students.
- **Eduflow**: Build learning activities and monitor student progress. Includes pre-made learning flows to help foster peer review and collaboration.
- **Flipgrid**: Create short videos with students with Grids. Grids serve as meeting places and allow for icebreakers, weekly reflections, and mini-presentations. Great for remote learning and building community.
- **Google Docs**: 100% free online collaboration tools — allows for easy commenting on student assignments and more. Integrates nicely with Google Classroom.

Tools that Promote Collaboration and Student Engagement

- **OneNote**: More of a teacher-friendly tool, but Microsoft's note organizer. Depending on our school district, you may have this installed already on your school computers.
- **Padlet**: Allows for creation of boards, documents, and webpages where you can invite students to post other interactive content. You can grade, star, and upvote posts with reactions fostering community. More school-centric features may require a subscription.
- **Video Ask**: Fun tool for asynchronous video interactions and Q&As. [Free account here.](#)

Screen Capture and Instructional Video Tools

- **Edpuzzle**: Source videos from YouTube, Khan Academy or create one yourself and track student comprehension. They are providing support for schools who have closed [here](#).
- **Classhook**: Use pre-made playlists or different clips from all curricula areas to assign for students to view at home as part of a lesson plan. Free plan allows for searching and accessing all clips.
- **Loom**: Screen recording software for your browser. Free plan is generous allowing for video feed to also be captured.
- **Nimbus**: Screen capture for your browser. Allows for annotation. Free plan is a bit more restrictive than Screencastify and Loom.

Screen Capture and Instructional Video Tools

- **Screencastify**: Comparable plugin to Loom and Nimbus. Popular among educators but free plan is limited to five minutes.
- **Screencast-o-Matic**:
- **TedEd**: Great for creating building lessons on any TED talk, animation or YouTube video.
- **WeVideo**: Online video editor that allows students to collaborate with one another on video projects. They're offering support for impacted schools [here](#).
- **YouTube**: Tons of helpful educational content — just be sure to vet what you're sharing for quality.

Video Conferencing Tools

- **Cisco Webex**: Allows for teaching virtually with lesson plans, facilitating group projects and hosting webinars. They've announced their supports for [virtual learning here](#).
- **Google Hangouts and Meet**: Google's webinar tools. They've extended supports that you can read about [here](#).
- **Microsoft Teams**: Web conferencing — ideal for schools that support Office 365. Learn more about best practices in using Microsoft Teams remotely [here](#).

Video Conferencing Tools

- **Skype**: Video chat. You can learn more about ways classrooms have used Skype [here](#).
- **YouTube Live**: Allows you to run a livestream with students with an interactive chat box. Commonly used by popular AP teachers like [Tom Richey](#).
- **Zoom**: Video conferencing that's popular because it doesn't require a download. They've written on the supports they're offering [here](#).

General Curriculum Distance Learning

- **Albert**: Thousands of standards-aligned practice questions for grades 6-12. Curriculum coverage of ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, AP, SAT®, ACT®, Regents, STAAR, and Common Core needs. Albert is providing extended free pilot licenses for schools impacted by COVID-19. The form to get access can be [found here](#).
- **ABCmouse**: Reading, math, science, art & colors curriculum for ages 2-8. They offer a 30-day trial after you watch their video on their homepage.
- **Actively Learn**: is a web-based reading platform that helps students read deeply and think critically, with thousands of texts and associated instruction in ELA, Science, and Social Studies
- **Bamboo Learning** offers FREE voice-based applications (Alexa skills) that cover a range of academic subjects, including math, ELA/listening comprehension, and social studies. Bamboo Learning Alexa skills focus on fun, home-based, family-friendly learning, and ensure children's engagement utilizing the unique nature of voice technology that promotes active conversational learning.

General Curriculum Distance Learning

- **BrainPOP**: Over a 1,000 short animated movies for grades K-12 in all subjects, with quizzes and related materials. You can request free unlimited use of the BrainPOP suite for the duration of your school closure [here](#).
- **CK-12**: Free and customizable K-12 open educational resources that are aligned to state curriculum standards.
- **EducationCity**: Targeted at grades PreK-6 providing lesson plans, resources and activities. [21-day free trial here](#).

General Curriculum Distance Learning

- **Edulastic**: Library of standards-aligned practice questions to create assessments in minutes. They're offering Premium and Enterprise features for free until July 1, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Heifer International**: offers FREE resources (downloadable books, mazes, word searches, and more) with topics in social studies (geography, economics), science, language arts.
- **IXL**: K-12 curriculum supports for math, language arts, science, social studies, Spanish, and Common Core. Teachers can start a [30-day trial account here.](#)
- **Khan Academy**: 100% free covering a wide range of subjects. Particularly strong in STEM subjects.

General Curriculum Distance Learning

- **MobyMax**: Targeted towards K-8 teachers providing CCSS-aligned content, assessments, and activities. Free COVID-19 support announcement [here](#).
- **Nearpod**: Thousands of customizable lessons with student activities. [Request support here](#).
- **PBS**: Free K-12 classroom resources ranging from media galleries, videos, and lesson plans. [Create a free account for full features](#).

Reading/English Language Arts Distance Learning

- **Accelerated Reader**: Reading quizzes on a variety of books. Requires subscription.
- **Book Creator**: Lets you create digital books online. Fosters creativity in the classroom for telling stories and more. They're offering 90-days of free access you can [start using here](#).
- **BoomWriter**: For grades 2-8. Somewhat similar to Book Creator in that it allows students to create original stories that can be published into softcover books. But also allows teachers to send students engaging fiction and non-fiction and vocabulary exercises.
- **CommonLit**: 100% free site that provides a digital lesson library, formative insights, and interim assessments. Features some Spanish materials as well.
- **Epic**: Digital library for K-5. There are learning videos and quizzes within as well.

Reading/English Language Arts Distance Learning

- **MyOn**: Digital library of 6,000 titles sorted by grade and Lexile reading level. Requires subscription.
- **Newsela**: Leveled readings to build literacy skills. Most require a subscription.
- **ReadWorks**: Free content, curriculum, and tools for grades K-12 targeted at building reading comprehension. You can read about their recommendations regarding using the site remotely here.
- **Starfall Reading**: Targeted at K-3 for teaching basic English reading and writing skills. Lots of games and phonics. Some features require a subscription.
- **StoryKit**: Simple free storybook creation app that allows students to add pictures and recordings with their own voices. Targeted at K-5.

Writing Distance Learning

- **Albert**: 100% free grammar course with over 3,300 original practice questions and explanations. Includes contemporary, informative and engaging texts and aligns to Common Core, Regents, and TEKS standards.
- **Draftin**: Simple site that allows you to have students share drafts with easy version controls. Good for those who may not want to use Google Docs and wants to emphasize focus in writing. Has a free version.
- **Grammarly**: Free browser extension or desktop tool that detects tone, typos, and helps build cleaner writing skills.
- **Hemingway**: Similar to Grammarly, provides annotations to help make student writing bolder and more clear. Free.
- **Quill**: Free writing and grammar activities for K-12. Includes lessons for teachers to lead writing instruction as well as diagnostics.
- **Scholastic Story Starters**: Tool focused for K-6 to help students brainstorm ideas for writing a fictional story. Prompts for adventure, fantasy, and sci-fi are included.

Math Distance Learning

- **Albert**: Hundreds of free questions and explanations in [Foundations of Algebra](#) and [Algebra I](#). Aligned to Common Core, Regents, and TEKS standards.
- **DeltaMath**: Interactive math practice for middle and high school students. Accounts are free for teachers and students.
- **Desmos**: Free online graphing calculator that includes digital activities for students from 6th to 12th grade. Teachers can create accounts to assign student activities.
- **Free Math App**: A platform where teachers can assign, review, and leave feedback on student work.
- **Geogebra**: Online tools for graphing and geometry. Classroom resources and activities are free.
- **Illustrative Mathematics**: Free math curriculum and resources for grades K-12 with a focus on creative word problems.

Math Distance Learning

- **Mathigon**: An interactive math textbook where students can learn and practice new concepts. Targeted towards high school students.
- **Mathletics**: An adaptive, interactive math platform centered on math challenges and quizzes that allow students to “compete” with one another. Schools and home users can try a [30-day free trial](#).
- **Mathsonline**: A collection of math tutorial videos, questions, and summaries. Accounts are required, but students, teachers, and parents can get a [free trial](#).
- **Mathspace**: An adaptive mathematics platform including practice questions and interactive textbooks.
- **Myimaths**: Math lessons and homework assignments for students ages 11 to 18. Schools can sign up for a [30-day free trial](#).
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children**: Activities that parents and guardians can do with young children (elementary and below) at home.

Math Distance Learning

- **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics**: Resources and activities for student exploration of mathematics.
- **The Math Learning Center**: Free games and activities for students in Pre-K through 6th grade.
- **VirtualNerd**: Math video support in middle school, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry.
- **Youcubed**: Inspirational math tasks, films, and textbooks to help students develop a growth mindset.
- **Zearn**: Digital lessons and printable activities aligned to EngageNY and Eureka Math. Resources are free and targeted towards grades K-5.

English Language Learning Distance Learning

- **Duolingo**: 100% free language learning. Personalized with immediate grading and gamification. Optional paid subscription to remove ads and get offline access.
- **FluentU**: Language immersion through real-world videos. 14-day trial is available to sign up for.
- **Fluency Matters**: Provides e-courses that include e-books, audiobooks, quizzes, and activities. Typically \$3.50/student. They're offering extended 21-day trials. [More information here.](#)
- **TeachVid**: Allows you to create language learning content with interactive text reconstruction activities and quizzes

Science Distance Learning

- **Discovery Education**: Arguably best known for their science textbooks, but also support other STEM subjects. They are providing free access to their materials for the remainder of the school year. [Learn more here](#).
- **Mystery Science**: Interactive lessons targeted at K-5 science curriculum that are NGSS-aligned and Common Core aligned. They've made their most popular lessons free [here](#).
- **STEMScopes**: K-12 STEM curriculum with digital resources, print materials, and exploration kits. General information of how their online platform can support during this time can be found [here](#).

Computer Science Distance Learning

- **Codecademy**: Free basic courses in computer science. Paid subscription optional; subscription unlocks members only content, study-plans, real-world projects and community support.
- **Tynker**: Coding site targeted for ages 5+. Includes a complete coding curriculum, automatic assessments, and classroom management tools. Google form for COVID-19 supports can be submitted [here](#).
- **Kodable**: Kids learn core programming concepts through engaging games developed with real teachers and kids.

Social Studies Distance Learning

- **Institute for Curriculum Services**: offers free curriculum and resources on topics for middle and high school history and social studies teachers.
- **Kids Discover Online**: Access Kid's Discover's award-winning library of science and social studies material on any device, at any time (free access request school closures).
- **Studies weekly**: is great for readers – primarily social studies
- **Virtual Field Trips**: offers videos covering K-8 social studies, life science, geography, and ancient civilization curriculum content. Our videos are standards-aligned and we also provide quizzes. (free 60-day membership).

Social Studies Distance Learning

- **Library of Congress**: Classroom materials and digital collections for teachers that align to CCSS as well as state standards. Sortable by Common Core, State Content, and Organizations.
- **Seterra**: Geography games for students. Targeted primarily at grades K-5. Learn more about their free access announcement [here](#).
- **Smithsonian Education**: Features a Learning Lab that allows you to build collections and educational experiences for students. Also has a Game Center for younger STEM learners and an extensive library on American history.
- **Stanford's Civic Online Reasoning Curriculum**: Provides free lessons and assessments for students to evaluate online information. The Stanford History Education Group provides other history lessons for free [here](#) as well.

Art Distance Learning

- **2 Simple**: Purple mash is a website designed for children ages 3-11. It contains many creative tools i.e.; coding animation, publishing, and art.
- **Creating a Masterpiece**: An award winning fine art training program for students 5 and up. First month of access is free with code: Corona2020
- **Doodles Academy**: is a free art curriculum that is available virtually. It provides art projects that offer authentic art experiences for students -- every student makes their own artistic decisions and walks away from the project with an artwork unique to them. Each project includes video tutorials and thorough lesson plans so that anyone can feel comfortable teaching art, regardless of their background or experience level.
- **Mark Kistler**: Offering free access to virtual, live webcasts for art/drawing lessons for students needing to work from home during this period.

Music Distance Learning

- [**123 Homeschool Music**](#): Printable worksheets and activities. All resources are free.
- [**Busy Kids Do Piano**](#): online piano and music courses. Sample classes for free or pay for a monthly, annual, or lifetime membership.
- [**Chrome Music Lab**](#): Make music in a variety of ways. All for free.
- [**Edu-Together**](#): Includes a Music Appreciation class for grades 6-12. Classes are taught live by their teaching staff in real time. Must request access.
- [**Flat**](#): Music notation software. Free until June 29th, 2020
- [**Music First**](#): You can request a free trial if your school is closed.
- [**Noteflight**](#): Compose, view, and share music notation. Must request access.

Music Distance Learning

- [Prodigies- Music](#): Lessons for younger learners. 21 day free trial.
- [Smart Music](#): Repertoire library and practice tools for musicians. Must request free access.
- [Solfeg.io](#): Song chords and lesson plans. Free with an account.
- [Starfall](#): Interactive songs for younger grades. Free with an account.
- [Study Ladder](#): Videos and worksheets for students. Free with an account.
- [Solfa Sofa](#): Free video music courses

As you access resources and take advantage of their generosity, we still urge that you check with your Director of Technology to ensure that a resource has data privacy practices in mind. We don't want you to get roped into paying for a service once a trial is up or catch you off guard with fees. Many of these are helpful but please exercise caution when looking into them.

Free Educational Resources

INFORMATION FROM MDE, MDH & OTHERS

- [Governor Walz Executive Order 3-15-20](#) ↓A
- [MDE School Guidance Framework UPDATED 3-17-20](#) ↓A
- [MDE Guidance on Distance Learning](#) ↓A
- [MDE Q&A Document - UPDATED 3-17-20](#) ↓A
- [MDE - Priority Categories for Emergency Workers](#) ↓A
- [MDE - Care for Children of Families of Emergency Workers NEW 3-17-20](#) ↓A

- [MDE COVID-19 Website](#)
- [MDH COVID-19 Website](#)
- [MDH Guidance for Schools](#)
- [MN Dept of Labor - Worker Protections Related to COVID-19](#)
- [US Dept of Labor - COVID-19 & FLSA](#)

[Joint Statement \(3-16-20\) from MSBA, MASA, MASSP, MESPA & Education Minnesota](#) ↓A

[MREA Guide to Plan for Distance Learning](#) ↓A

[MREA COVID Response Slides](#) ↓A

RESOURCES CREATED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- [WWG: Update for students on school and COVID -19 \(PPT\)](#) ↓A
- [SWWC: Parent letter about school closing \(Word\)](#) ↓A
- [SWWC: Video with Rachel Cox Raverty talking to kids about COVID-19 \(below\)](#)
- [Windom: Food Service Survey Questions for Families \(Word\)](#) ↓A

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

- [Regional Internet Providers](#)
- [Companies Offering Free eLearning Subscriptions](#)
- [Daily Schedule Templates for Distance Learning - Khan Academy](#)
- [Free Digital Curriculum by MN Schools for MN Schools - ELA, Math, Science & Social Studies](#)
- [Math Resources](#)
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Music Resources](#)
- [PreK - Grade 3 Resources](#)
- [Reading Resources](#)
- [Science and Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Special Education Resources](#)
- [STEM and CTE Resources](#)
- [Teacher Training - How to Teach Online](#)
- [Virtual Field Trips](#)

To Find the Resources

wwwc.org/covid

Thank You!

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