

# Accommodating for Differing Levels of Technology Resources

## Strategies for Supporting Students with Internet Connectivity Issues and Limited Access to Technology Resources

1

### Contact Students and Families Regularly

- Email, phone, and/or add supportive comments and constructive feedback on students' work.
- Maintain regular contact but be careful and keep the boundaries.

2

### Suggest Free or Affordable Internet Offers

- Provide families a list with the names of companies offering free or affordable internet.
- Remember that some companies might have established eligibility requirements that some families cannot meet.

3

### Find Information About Wifi Hotspots

- Share with students and families a list of Wifi hotspots.
- Remember to instruct students and families to protect their personal information against possible hotspots' security threats.
- Be mindful of limitations students can face using Wifi from a hotspot since its internet is not always reliable for long periods.

4

### Check in via Google or Microsoft Forms

- Send periodically Google or Microsoft Forms for students to check how they are and what help they need to go through blended and online learning successfully .
- Keep the form simple and short.

5

### Use Plain Text When Emailing

- Use plain text instead of attachments when emailing students and families.
- Remember that attachments are harder to access when using mobile devices and require more data usage.

6

### Make Transcripts of Shared Videos

- Use speech-to-text features of platforms such as Google Docs and PowerPoint when recording videos, so that the transcripts can be shared and students who cannot access the video can read its content through the transcript.
- Find on the internet and share with students the transcripts of videos recorded by others.

7

### Provide Hard Copies

- Provide a printable version of the material and hard copies of textbooks and workbooks for students.
- In blended learning, deliver the material directly to students.
- In online learning, have parents pick up the material at the school or mail it to students' homes if possible.

8

### Use USBs or DVDs to Share Digital Material

- Save video, audio, and text instructions and assignments on USBs or DVDs.
- In blended learning, deliver the USBs or DVDs directly to students.
- In online learning, have parents pick up the USBs or DVDs at the school or mail them to students' homes if possible.

## ! Avoid Harsh Punishments !

Consider all the challenges students with limited internet face in blended and online learning. It is important to reflect on how to avoid severe consequences for students' performance and give them different options for completing their activities. Being flexible is the key in this situation.

### Reference

Major, A. (2020). *14 Tips for helping students with limited internet have distance learning*. KQED News. <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/55608/14-tips-for-helping-students-with-limited-internet-have-distance-learning>