

Affordable Internet Access Options for BCPS Families and Staff

Broward County Public Schools has successfully transitioned to distance learning with approximately 15,000 teachers and 220,000 students from our District managed schools participating in remote online learning, we have continued to focus our efforts on eliminating the digital divide.

The District has distributed more than 85,000 laptop computers to students, and we continue to issue laptops to anyone who still needs one. These efforts are in addition to the already 3,000 unlimited data phones that the District has distributed through the Sprint 1 Million program to BCPS high school students.

We have also created several new options to provide more affordable internet services to meet the needs of struggling Broward families and staff who do not presently have internet access. The following priority list will be served with these opportunities:

1. **Students affected by housing instability/insecurity** will be provided with unlimited data internet mobile hotspots (or unlimited data phones) at no cost to them;
2. **Students who are deeply economically affected** by this crisis (e.g., are now the sole family breadwinner) will be provided with unlimited data internet mobile hotspots at no cost to them; and
3. **Low income families and staff** will continue to be referred to;
 - a) AT&T's Access program with the first two months free and \$5 - \$10/mo.* thereafter. Please visit att.com/access for more details or call 855-220-5211.
 - b) Comcast's \$10/mo. Internet Essentials program** for low income families with a promotional offer of the first two months of free access. Please visit internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376 for English or 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

**Must order by April 30. Monthly cost depends on internet speed available at customer's location.*

***Comcast has notified the District that 100% of requests for Broward County Public Schools families are being processed within 5-7 days.*

Implementation of Mobile Hotspots

We are addressing the need for hotspots by leveraging the following providers, according to the timelines below. Please note that there is currently a national shortage of hotspots, which challenges us in our ability to provide all the units we desire on a more immediate basis. To address this concern, we have created an alternative option, reflected below, where we will be providing cellular phones with data plans to help ameliorate the temporary supply constraints.

Week of 4/13 ParentLink communications will be issued indicating the availability of and process for applying for support in securing broadband internet access.

Week of 4/20 Up to 70 cellular phones with unlimited data access will be provisioned to homeless students based upon principal, guidance counselor and community shelter (e.g., Women in Distress) referrals.

Week of 4/27 Distribution of 1,000 AT&T unlimited data wireless hotspots according to the priority list above, begins toward the end of the week.

Week of 5/4 Distribution of AT&T unlimited data hotspots continues.

Week of 5/18 Distribution of 1,000 additional unlimited data hotspots and phones provided by Sprint (through expanded access to the Sprint 1 Million Project) begins.

Week of 5/25 Distribution of up to 1,000 additional unlimited data hotspots through a BCPS negotiated pilot program for a targeted Broward geographic area with new telecommunications carrier Hotwire. Service will be provisioned for the remainder of 2020.

Cost to District and Terms

All costs for these internet access options will be covered by the District to ensure that these high need, vulnerable and financially impacted individuals are not left behind.

- **AT&T Hotspots** at \$75 a month X 1,000 = \$75,000 per month
 - Month-to-Month
 - Lead time based on device availability
 - 99¢ up-front cost per device
 - Requesting 2 months of service, after which time the District will get a 60-day credit on the hotspot service (educational promotion), effectively rendering service free to the District for May and most of June.

- **Sprint 1 Million** Project phones/hotspots 1,000 @ \$70 a device = \$70,000 one-time cost
 - An addendum to the existing contract is currently pending BCPS legal review and would allow elementary and middle grade students to participate in addition to those high school students already participating.
 - Monthly service is offered free for 2 years after payment of the one-time cost described above.
 - Currently, there is an expected 4-week lead time to receive devices after order is placed.

- **Hotwire**
 - BCPS negotiated a free program with this new carrier for up to 1,000 devices within a 5-mile geofence area (area to be defined in high need geographic zip codes).

For more information and updates, visit [browardschools.com/coronavirus](https://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus).

**Please note information is always changing and
we will provide the latest updates as soon as possible.**

The School Board of Broward County, Florida Lori Alhadeff • Robin Bartleman • Heather P. Brinkworth • Patricia Good • Donna P. Korn
Laurie Rich Levinson • Ann Murray • Dr. Rosalind Osgood • Nora Rupert • Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. The School Board also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may contact the Director, of the Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department & District's Equity Coordinator/Title IX Coordinator at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), may contact the Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. [browardschools.com](https://www.browardschools.com)