

IT Resources: COVID-19 Guidance

Connectivity for Students

Wireless Options

- Verizon Wireless: Verizon Wireless is currently under state contract, and devices are \$0 cost. Service is \$35/month for high utilization and \$24/month for low utilization.
- T-Mobile: There is currently a \$0 cost for devices and a \$35/month per user for unlimited bandwidth.
- Comcast: Comcast currently has a program for low-income families to obtain internet service. This service is normally \$10/month (Internet Essentials program). However, under COVID guidelines, Comcast is waiving the cost for two (2) months. This does not provide super high-speed internet, but does provide basic access. Information related to this is provided below.

Device Options

- The department is currently working with Dell, Microsoft, and SHI as a reseller to provide low-cost options across manufacturers.
- Comcast also has devices under their [Internet Essentials](https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/internet-essentials-low-income-broadband-coronavirus-pandemic) program. More information can be found at: <https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/internet-essentials-low-income-broadband-coronavirus-pandemic>.
- The average cost for devices will be between \$100- \$149 per device.
- Options for lease are limited due to financing conditions and no guarantee on equipment quality on return.

IT Supports for Learning

- Working with Microsoft, the department can provision Microsoft Teams to enable virtual classrooms for learning. This virtual classroom model is active in a number of states and can be structured to meet the needs of districts.
- The department can auto-create the Teacher/Student relationships into a Microsoft "Class." This functionality can be created inside of the Teams application using EIS, so that the platform creates "classrooms" inside of "schools." This feature will give teachers access to the tools available, including assignment creation, grading, teacher / student communications via text and video chat capabilities within the application.
- Microsoft Teams also allows for monitoring of student activity within the virtual classroom to ensure students are participating and actively working on their assignments.

EIS Reporting

- In their SIS systems, in a virtual world, EIS administrators should be coding students as present as they normally would. Their calendars in a virtual school environment can be coded as a normal school day and student would be marked as present based on how the school wants to monitor/record participation (see 3rd bullet about Teams above).