HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED DURING COVID-19

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Contents:

- Staffing
- Funding/Partnerships
- Supplies/Equipment
- Security/Managing expectations
- Collaborating with schools
- 10 model programs
“For the sake of our children, our families, our communities, and our economy, we need to turn this problem into an opportunity.”

~ Afterschool Alliance
Today’s goals:

• Inspire you to borrow ideas from others
• Provide evidence of need

Topics covered:

• Connectivity
• Online resources
• Reading programs
• Reaching out to schools
• Homeschooled families/learning pods
• Food insecurity
Important numbers:

- By end of March 2020, 130,000 schools closed
- 55 million students finished the year at home
- Only 6 in 10 students engaged regularly in virtual learning
- 30 million students suddenly without meals
- 14 million adults say their children are hungry

Closing schools in March was like “playing a game of 3-D chess while standing on one leg in the middle of a hurricane.”

~ Jason Kamras, schools chief, Richmond, VA
Connectivity issues:

- Internet has been essential to 53% of U.S. adults during the pandemic
- 42 million U.S. households don’t have internet access:
  - No broadband
  - No computer
  - Too expensive

“The inequity in access to technology and education has never been so obvious.”

~ Cynthia Garcia Coll, Child Development editor
How can libraries help?

• Provide internet access through mobile WiFi hotspots and “parking lot WiFi”
• Circulate hotspot devices
• Loan Chromebooks
• Post local free hotspot locations on the library’s homepage

“Making sure all students and families have access to appropriate, engaging ... materials, instruction, and support during coronavirus closures is one important way we can prevent [COVID-19 slide] from growing. This will require ... closing the digital divide by providing increased access to the internet and technology.”

~ Megan Kuhfeld and Beth Tarasawa, researchers
Online Resources:

• Multnomah County Library
  [https://multcolib.org/homework-center](https://multcolib.org/homework-center)

• Wake Forest University tutoring site
  [communityengagement.wfu.edu/virtual-engagement/virtual-tutoring/](communityengagement.wfu.edu/virtual-engagement/virtual-tutoring/)

• Brainfuse and Tutor.com

• Sonoma County and Santa Barbara libraries
  provide Spanish language informational videos on their homepages
Reading Programs and Resources:

• Reading Into History Family Book Club, New York Historical Society
• Read-alouds
• OverDrive/Hoopla/Enki (California only)

“Reading together as a family in a tumultuous world provides young people with consistency, and a sense that they have something special to look forward to each and every time: meaningful time together.”
~ Mary Ann Cappiello, literacy professor
Reaching Out to Schools:

- Brooklyn Connections/Brooklyn Public Library
  https://www.bklynlibrary.org/brooklyncollection.connections
- Ask teacher:
  - Number of students and which grade(s)?
  - Topic(s)?
  - Live or asynchronous presentation?
  - Record session?
  - Video platform?

“We meet schools where they are.”
~ Jen Hoyer, education librarian, Brooklyn Public Library
Homeschooled Families:

“Tips on Remote Learning for Panicked Parents”

- Learning opportunities are everywhere.
- You are already a teacher.
- There are many roads to literacy.
- Literacy isn’t just about reading.
- Educational resources are readily available.
- You are not in this alone
- And, finally, cut yourself a break.

~ Erin Powers & Daniel Diaz, UCLA Center X

“If you’re a new, unexpected homeschool parent and are feeling overwhelmed, take a deep breath. You are not alone!”

~ Los Angeles Public Library, “Homeschooling Resources to the Rescue”
Learning Pods:

• In-person or virtual homework center where a trained educator or parent helps a group of students complete schoolwork.
• Independent homeschool where a small group of students are taught either online or in-person.
• Contact via Nextdoor or “pandemic pod” Facebook. [www.facebook.com/groups/pandemicpodsfs/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pandemicpodsfs/)

“Active parent involvement in their child’s education [is] a key in student success.”
~ Afterschool Alliance
Food Insecurity:

- Extended Lunch at the Library program
- Humanities Texas program (humanitiestexas.org)
- Library community food gardens
  - Erie City Public Library, Kansas

“Hungry kids don’t read.”

~ Natalie Cole and Virginia A. Walter, *Transforming Summer Programs at Your Library*
Questions?

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