



School District of Milton

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Community*

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Internet Access for Students and Families

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The School District of Milton is using Virtual Learning Days (VLD) to deliver instruction during days when regular in-person school is not in session. VLD includes traditional learning through paperwork, book materials, thought exercises, and real-world interaction, but can also include digital or web-based content like videos, websites, and digital learning platforms. While the requirements to access the digital portions of VLD are low, at least occasional basic internet access is needed.

Here are some resources that may help with internet access. You may find value in using them yourself, sharing them with other parents or other students, or just using them to learn something new. If you have any questions about VLD, please reach out to the teacher coordinating learning with you or your child.

General Guidance

Internet Access for every family can be very different. Here are some ways that you can get internet access outside of the school district:

- Access to the district's guest wireless internet is available in the parking lot of many schools and the district office. Service is coming from within the buildings, so will be better closer to the buildings. Note that the buildings may be closed to visitors or otherwise inaccessible. [SDM Parking Lot Wireless Availability](#)
- Subscribe to residential internet service if available at your home. Service types can include wired, wireless, satellite, and cellular internet. [How much does residential internet cost?](#) | [What is available where I live?](#)
- Subscribe to a cellular smartphone data plan. Common cell providers are US Cellular, Verizon, AT&T, and T Mobile. This service provides internet to your smartphone, but can also often be shared with other devices by using your smartphone as a wireless hotspot. [How to use your smartphone as a wireless hotspot](#)
- Use wireless internet provided at public or commercial sites. Places such as the public library, restaurants, shops, and hotels often offer wireless internet to patrons. Note that while access is often free, sometimes it will require purchase.

- The district has a limited supply of cellular-based hotspots available for checkout to both staff and students (we are always working to identify additional needs!). These can help provide internet access as a last resort wherever Verizon cell service is reliable.
- The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) launched a customer service phone line for those who need help locating phone or internet service during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Callers can speak with a PSC Consumer Affairs staff person who will walk through internet and phone service options available in their area and discuss eligibility for discounts on critical communications services. Please call: 1-608-267-3595.

Did you know? The device you access the internet with can have a significant impact on your internet experience! Desktops, laptops, chromebooks, tablets, phones, eReaders, gaming consoles, and watches can all access the internet. If you have spotty service, connection issues, or loading problems, try accessing the internet from a different device (or a different browser on a computer). It can make a world of difference!

Supporting Programs

1. Internet Discounts - Families who don't have internet access might qualify for discounted service. Here is a map provided by the Wisconsin Public Services Commission that can help you see if there are discounted service options in your area: [Wisconsin Discount Programs](#)
2. Lifeline Program - Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers can get at least \$9.25 toward their service. To get Lifeline, find a company near you at: [Companies Near Me](#). To find out more about the lifeline program please visit: [Lifeline Support](#).
3. HomeNet. - This is a program available through the Foundation for Rural Housing that helps procure and pay for internet access for qualifying applicants with at least 1 child in middle or high school. For more information or to fill out an application, please visit: [HomeNet](#).
4. Spectrum Internet Assist - The Spectrum Internet Assist program provides reliable, high-speed internet access at an affordable price for those who qualify. Eligible low-income households can receive discounted 30 Mbps high-speed internet, along with Security Suite and an internet modem, at no additional charge. Spectrum Internet Assist requires no contracts, and there are no data caps or hidden fees. For more information, please visit [Spectrum Internet Assist](#).

Did you know? Glass can have a significant effect on the amount and quality of wireless signal available at your location. In many cases, working near glass can help improve signal. In some cases, though, it may be better to move to a place where there is no glass in the way even if it means putting a wall between you and

the signal source. Going outside, rolling down or opening windows, and moving closer to signal sources can all be good ways to improve wireless signal in this case.

Additional Ideas and Support

In some cases it may not be possible to acquire or strengthen internet access. If you, your family, or other students are found in this situation, the best thing to do is notify your teacher and try your best to prepare in advance.

Work with your teacher to download, verify, and prepare instructions and materials in advance. If it is safe and a viable option to travel or ride to a public location where wireless internet is available, then doing schoolwork from that location may be advisable with parent permission while it continues to be an option. If you or your child have access to peers in the same courses, it may be possible to get instructions and/or materials from them. Please reach out to your teacher for more information or ideas.