

AACPS Internet Internet/Technology

Options

Resources Comcast Internet Essentials

www.internetessentials.com/covid19

For any other questions please contact: Brian Whitley, Office of Equity and Accelerated Student Achievement: bwhitley@aacps.org

As our country continues to manage the COVID-19 emergency, Comcast is taking immediate steps to make it easier to connect eligible families to home Internet.

- New Internet Essentials customers will receive two free months of Internet service if they apply by April 30, 2020. After promotion, regular rates apply of \$9.95/mo.
- For all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program's Internet service has increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.
- Households with outstanding debt owed to Comcast may be eligible for Internet Essentials. Comcast is waiving this qualification if you apply and are approved by 5/13/20. After 5/13/20, standard eligibility rules apply.

Verizon Lifeline Verizon is offering 60 days free for their Lifeline customers. For more information:

www.verizon.com/support/consumer/account/manage-account/lifeline-discount To check for lifeline eligibility: CheckLifeline.org/lifeline

WiFi Hotspots at School Parking Lot

(A Hotspot is a physical location you can access the internet through WiFi) AACPS has created open access to its content filtered Wi-Fi networks at schools. Guest networks will be open to the public from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. so that, where possible, families can potentially utilize the AACPS guest network from the parking lots.

X-Finity Free Hotspots Everyone can now access 1.5 million out-of-home

Xfinity WiFi hotspots for free: These

hotspots are normally located in business areas, retail locations and transit areas.

- To find your nearest hotspot, go to <http://wifi.xfinity.com/> and enter your zip code. Once you are at the location, follow the instructions at <http://wifi.xfinity.com/> to join the hotspot. These 1.5 million hotspots are now free for all who need them through this challenging time.

Other Options Verizon wireless, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint have increased existing

data plans to add a

minimum of 15GB of free data and free mobile hotspot to their plans. While we know that not every student or staff has a smartphone, it is extremely likely that someone in their domicile does. If that person turns their phone into a hotspot (three touches on an Android phone) up to five devices may connect and get Internet access.

Device Information • Most smart devices such as cell phones, tablets,

Chromebooks, laptops, desktop

computers, and game consoles (eg Xbox or PS4) can be used to access our AACPS e-learning materials and resources.

• If you have not heard about receiving a device, please contact your school's principal.