**APS Sponsors Internet Access**

ALBUQUERQUE – Just as Albuquerque Public Schools rolled out its Continuous Learning Plan this week, more than 10,000 laptops were checked out to families that didn’t have a computer at home.

Now, APS is working with several partners on making sure students have access to the internet so they can check in regularly with their teacher and access content as they continue learning at home. APS and all New Mexico public schools switched to distance learning after they were ordered closed by the governor and state Public Education Department for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

APS is helping get the word out about [Comcast’s Internet Essentials](https://www.internetessentials.com/covid19) program, which provides inexpensive internet for low-income families who do not have internet access. New customers get the first two months free. For families that can’t afford Internet Essentials at their home, APS will sponsor the cost of six months of Comcast Internet Essentials service.

For families in remote areas that don’t have access to Comcast services, APS will work with them on getting hot spots powered by T-Mobile, again at no cost to the families.

APS is using operational funds to cover internet costs for families in need. Schools will be reaching out to families that have indicated they need assistance. Families also may contact their child’s school if they need help accessing the internet.

APS also is working with the City of Albuquerque to provide drive-up mobile WiFi units at a number of APS schools and other public locations. Users can drive up to within 100 feet of the mobile units and stay in their cars to promote social distancing while accessing a free WiFi connection. [The City of Albuquerque has posted a map of the free public WiFi access points.](http://www.cabq.gov/coronavirus-information/wifi)

Finally, Comcast has also made all Xfinity WiFi hotspots at businesses available for free; [the public can visit a map](http://wifi.xfinity.com/) to find their closest Comcast-sponsored hotspot.

With APS’ partnerships with City of Albuquerque, Comcast, and T-Mobile, all APS families should be able to get internet access to continue their learning