

NEWS RELEASE

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Attachments include: Photos of hotspot preparation and, via Dropbox, [natural sound video of hotspot distribution](#) at three Fort Worth ISD schools on Wednesday

Fort Worth ISD Mobilizes to Distribute Internet “Hotspots” to Students

Facebook Contributes \$500,000 and AT&T Works With the District to Provide Best Possible Deal

The **Fort Worth ISD** is distributing 6,000 **AT&T** hotspots over the next few days to provide additional students with internet accessibility so they may continue to learn at home during the COVID-19 school closure.

The \$1.3 M purchase was approved by the **Fort Worth ISD Board of Education** on April 14 and is being further supported by a generous \$500,000 donation from **Facebook**. Facebook says the gift is part of the company’s COVID Relief efforts to support local communities.

“Access to a device is critical for support of the District’s *Learning at Home* initiative during the mandated state and county Covid-19 school closure,” said **Jerry Moore**, **FWISD’s Chief Academic Officer**.

District leaders also worked with **AT&T** to secure the greatest number of mobile Wi-Fi hotspots at the best possible price. The Fort Worth ISD also deeply appreciates the efforts of **Read Fort Worth** in bringing together all parties.

“We are delighted to partner with Read Fort Worth to bring community resources to the work of our District,” said Jerry Moore. “We look forward to their support as we continue to grow virtual learning.”

The internet devices began arriving at District offices on Tuesday, April 21 and a team of more than 40 FWISD employees rapidly configured them to work within the District’s computer network.

Distribution began on Wednesday and continues for the next two days. All recipients have been pre-identified and devices assigned.

“We really want to thank Facebook for such a generous donation,” said Mr. Moore. “The speed with which they responded to this need was in and of itself incredible.”

“Fort Worth is our home, and we are honored to be able to partner with the Fort Worth Independent School District and Read Fort Worth to provide immediate relief to families and students,” said **Matt Sexton, Community Development Regional Manager for Facebook**. “We are committed to investing in the long-term vitality of this community and we appreciate the opportunity to help the students of Fort Worth connect in a meaningful way and continue their education from home.”

Facebook has been part of the Fort Worth community since 2015 when they broke ground on their 2.5 million square foot data center.

-FWISD-

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