



May 22, 2020

Distance Learning Parent Newsletter, Issue 8

English Learner Support Division
California Department of Education

A Letter from the California Department of Education (CDE)

DEAR PARENTS,

Each week this newsletter will focus on a different theme and will provide information and resources to parents on that theme.

This week the topic is history and social science. The study of history and social science offers students the opportunity to learn about the world and their place in it, think critically, and read, write, and communicate clearly. History and social science develops students' understanding of the physical world, encourages their participation in our democratic system of government, teaches them about our past, informs their financial choices, and improves their ability to make reasoned decisions based on evidence. Studying this subject prepares students to grow up as active, responsible, and reflective members of society.

New Informational Resource

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will issue P-EBT benefits to children who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals whose schools were closed for at least five consecutive days during the COVID-19 emergency.

Through the P-EBT program, each eligible child will receive up to \$365 in electronic food benefits. P-EBT benefits are in addition to, not in lieu of, free and reduced-priced meals. Children who receive P-EBT may still continue to receive meals at COVID-19 emergency sites. Similar to school meal programs, there are no restrictions by immigration status associated with P-EBT. P-EBT staff will never ask you for social security information or a copy of the birth certificate. Please do not provide this information.

For more information about P-EBT, you can visit the CDSS P-EBT web page at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>.

Informational Resources Included Every Week

School Lunch Information: CA Meals for Kids

Parents can still pick up school lunches during COVID-19 related school closures. Use the "CA Meals for Kids" mobile app to find meals or you can contact your school district directly for more information. Some districts now offer home delivery for school lunches. Parents should contact their child's school to see if the school has opted into this optional program.

CDE News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update. News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/497627>

Getting Internet Access

If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are several companies offering service to families. Contact the companies listed on the link below on the CDE web page to discuss available plans.

Getting Internet Access: Available Plans at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>

Home Learning Resources

Below are free recommended resources that you can use with your children at home or they can use on their own.

History and Social Science Resources

IXL Social Studies

IXL Social Studies offers skill-based activities for students in grades 2–12 in the areas of geography, economics, culture, civics, U.S. history, world history, and global studies. IXL supports success for all learners by offering students the opportunity to explore the world through primary sources and by drawing connections between historical events and the world today.

<https://bit.ly/IXLSocialStudies>

History for Kids

This free online history network is engaging and interactive. This website includes articles, worksheets, games, quizzes, and videos. Students will enjoy exploring Egypt, Greece, the Middle Ages, Rome, Asia, China, and more.

<https://www.historyforkids.net>

Social Studies for Kids

Choose from many exciting topics including U.S., Geography, Cultures, Sports and Games, and more.

<https://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/index.html>

Smithsonian Fun Stuff for Kids and Teens

The Smithsonian offers learning activities related to art, history, and culture. These resources include project ideas that students can do away from a screen.

<https://www.si.edu/kids>

Virtual Museum and Historical Site Tours

Even though no one can take a field trip right now, you can go on a virtual field trip to one of these museums or historical sites right from your own home!

Boston Children's Museum

<https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/museum-virtual-tour>

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

California Missions

<https://californiamissionsfoundation.org/virtual-tour>

Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/visit/online-tours>

Social Media and Email

To stay up to date with new resources and information, follow the CDE English Learner Support Division on Twitter [@MultilingualCA](https://twitter.com/MultilingualCA).

To subscribe to the English Learner Updates Listserv, send a blank email to join-english-learner-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.