

BRIDGING THE GAP

LPB ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION EDUCATION PLAN

The COVID-19 epidemic has highlighted the digital divide that exists among Louisiana schools and students, and which presents a significant barrier to at-home learning. A recent survey by the Louisiana Department of Education showed that more than half of the students in 27 of 69 Louisiana school districts lack access to a school-issued or personal laptop computer or tablet — more than 200,000 students. Officials in the East Baton Rouge Parish school district told the state that 55% of their students lack access to a laptop; Central, 50%; Jefferson Parish, 40%; Livingston Parish, 38%; St. John the Baptist Parish, 65%; West Baton Rouge Parish, 65%; and St. Landry Parish, 60%. The shortage is even worse in rural areas, where five mostly north Louisiana school districts say 75% or more of their students lack access to a laptop or tablet at home. Educators said the coronavirus pandemic has exposed a national digital divide that is especially jarring in a state like Louisiana, where about two-thirds of students — nearly 500,000 youngsters — live in low-income households.

PROPOSED INITIATIVES

BRIDGING THE GAP: SUMMER SESSIONS

In an effort to help make up lost instructional time due to COVID-19 social distancing and to prepare students for the 2020-2021 school year, LPB will dedicate a portion of its summer, daytime broadcast schedule to educational programming, during the months of July and August on LPB's main broadcast channel statewide, and on WYES and WLAE in New Orleans.

- **LPB's Bridging the Gap "Summer Sessions" for Students** will consist of a broadcast schedule of instructional and educational programs on LPB's main channel.
- Proposed schedule: 5 hours M-F, during the months of JULY (math) and AUGUST (Science and SS):
 - JULY: **Eureka Math** instruction videos for K-5
 - JULY: **Illustrative Math** instruction videos for 6-8, and Algebra
 - **Proposed schedule on LPB-1:**
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m. M-W-F: grades 3-5; T-TH: grades K-2
1:30 P.M. – 3:00 p.m. M-F grades 6-9
 - AUGUST: Science and Social Studies documentaries linked to state standards
- **LPB's Bridging the Gap "Summer Sessions" for Educators**, intensive training teachers best practices in distance learning and in using LPB Learning Media standards aligned resources (broadcast and digital)

BRIDGING THE GAP: TEACHER TRAINING

Virtual trainings will be held every week for teachers to learn how to best utilize the PBS LearningMedia and Discovery Education digital media libraries. Both digital libraries have distance learning platforms that allow teachers to build subject folders, import class rosters, assign lessons, build project boards, quizzes and much more. Teachers can work together to build grade level resources that can be shared.

- Use PBS Teacher trainings that already exist
- Train teacher ambassadors in each school district to be the LPB training liaisons
- Customize lesson plans according to local standards and goals

BRIDGING THE GAP: ENHANCED DISTANCE LEARNING:

There are innovative ways to reach all Louisiana students, and Louisiana Public Broadcasting is uniquely positioned to do this. LPB proposes a plan to bridge the educational divides that exist across our state by reaching all students either through over-the-air broadcasting with educational and instructional content or via multiple digital platforms, including web and smart phone.

LPB proposes creating two central “bridge” pathways. Districts, educators and students can select elements of the two pathways that best meet the needs of students to achieve success in the classroom:

- **Bridge #1** for ALL DISTRICTS, PRIVATE, PAROCHIAL AND HOMESCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS
 - Access to 1000s of digital resources and video clips aligned to Louisiana standards available through **LPB/PBS Learning Media** and **Discovery Education**
 - Teachers can identify standards-linked lessons and exercises and assign them to students via smartphone or internet platforms like Google classroom, Remind and/or simple hyperlinks.
 - Districts can create learning models for schools utilizing LPB/PBS Learning media, classroom instructional videos, and broadcast documentaries
 - Broadcast schedule of instructional and educational programs on LPB
 - Eureka Math instruction videos for K-5
 - Illustrative Math instruction videos for 6-8, and Algebra
 - Science and Social Studies documentaries linked to state standards
 - Online streaming of educational and instructional content
 - Teacher training for LPB/PBS Learning Media and Discovery Education
 - **Bright by Text**, localized, customized, direct-to-parent texting service for children ages prenatal to 8 years old.

- **Bridge #2** for Louisiana school districts and schools with LIMITED COMPUTER OR INTERNET ACCESS
 - Broadcast schedule of instructional and educational programs on LPB
 - Eureka Math instruction videos for K-5
 - Illustrative Math instruction videos for 6-8, and Algebra
 - Science and Social Studies documentaries linked to state standards
 - Teacher training for using LPB/PBS Learning Media and Discovery Education, and broadcast / smartphone applications
 - Printable packets and exercises related to Learning Media and broadcast content
 - **Bright by Text**, localized, customized, direct-to-parent texting service