

## Student Access to Technology COVID-19 Statement

April 2020

The current COVID-19 crisis has illuminated inequities in access to broadband connectivity and technology for Washington students. Washington's public four-year college and universities remain committed to meeting the college and career goals of all Washington's students. During these unprecedented times, Washington's public four-year college and universities are employing a range of approaches and resources to assist students in the transition to remote learning.

Our approaches include:

- Utilizing Professional Judgement in financial aid decisions to increase the amount of aid to students to reduce financial barriers to access broadband services.
- Purchasing and lending laptops to students.
- Establishing mobile hot spots via public venues (e.g. libraries, etc.), parking lots and university centers.
- Boosting signal strength where possible through a range of access points.
- Bolstering student and faculty support services to assist with the transition to remote learning including advising and technology assistance.
- Surveying students to develop proactive responses to emerging issues and challenges.
- Supporting and reaching out to state agencies and partners (e.g. K-12 education, libraries, etc.) to provide leadership and assistance through our research and public service missions across the state.
- Sharing broadband resources with students and families including, but not limited to, Federal Communication Commission [guidance](#) and broadband [services and carriers](#).
- Participation in the Washington Internet Access Crisis Team to participate in updates, coordination and prioritization of next steps for addressing digital inclusion gaps.

Together, we recognize that the impact of COVID-19 on students, families and institutions is fluid and changing. We continue to be committed to communicating, collaborating, and engaging with students, families and partners, now and in the future.