

Is your student learning online? Do you need guidance to support them? Project Lead The Way (PLTW) can help! We created this short resource to empower you to support your student as they learn online. Research has shown what works (and doesn't work) when implementing online learning, and one of the most important things is to provide support. You play a role in that support. A helpful additional resource is the [PLTW Guide to Online Learning for Students \(Grades 6-12\)](#).

### PLTW's Distance Learning Support

PLTW offers students a transformative learning experience. The backbone of the PLTW experience is the APB approach, which stands for Activity-, Project-, and Problem-based learning.



The APB approach sets students up for success so they can find solutions to problems. To support you and your student in school, at home, or anywhere in between, PLTW updated student courses for online/distance learning. The student courses include a welcome page that links to new resources for distance, or online, learning guidance. Additionally,

students can click on the buttons in the courses to go directly to distance learning support, such as online versions of activities, projects, and problems, and additional support information. Links to all PLTW's distance learning support resources are available [HERE](#).

### Your Role as a Caregiver

It's important that a student has support while engaging in online and blended (a mix of online and in-school) learning. This support can take many forms and people - it might include teachers, other students, mentors, other educators, and community members. Work with your students' school to understand what resources are available. Additionally, PLTW has steps you can take as your student prepares for online learning. You may not be able to take all the steps - but the actions you take will be helpful.

### Creating the Learning Environment

- I make sure that my student and I maintain wellbeing. This may include exercise, food, safety, and health.
- I ensure my student has the technology and connectivity they need to learn at home. If I need assistance, I contact my student's school (or teacher).
- I help my student set up a physical learning space (desk area or table, computer, supplies) that meets their needs.
- I help my student by creating or co-creating a calendar so they can manage their learning time.
- I work with my student to co-create learning goals and define expectations.
- I work with my student to set up their technology for learning (organizing and managing files).



## Finding Support for my Student

- I work with my student's school to find out where technology support is available and who can resolve technical issues.
- [Where applicable] My student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 plan, and/or Individual Learning Plan (ILP), and I work with support staff to make sure my student has what they need.
- I ask my student's school if there is parental access so I can monitor my student's learning progress through the school's learning management system (LMS).
- I collaborate with educators and my student to monitor their learning progress.
- I use the [Online Learning Readiness Rubric](#) with my student to understand where they need the most support.
- I encourage my student to take ownership of their learning and ask for help when they need it.
- I make sure my student has basic computer skills needed to complete and submit assignments. If they are lacking in certain skills, I ask for help and/or encourage them to do so.
- I guide and support my student and ask for support from their teachers as my student begins to understand their learning habits, especially when learning at home.



## Learning More about Online Learning

- I use the [PLTW's distance learning support page](#) to find resources directed at caregivers and students.
- I continue to build my understanding of learning online.\*
- I use the [PLTW Guide to Online Learning for Students \(Grades 6-12\)](#) to provide support for my student.

PLTW would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the development of this guide:

- Dr. Kathryn Kennedy, an education consultant specializing in online, blended, and digital learning. The foundation of the guide is based on work done by Michigan Virtual™, through its Michigan Virtual Learning Research Institute®, where Dr. Kennedy served as Director from 2013 - 2018.
- PLTW partners Amazon Web Services, ArcelorMittal, Chevron, Toyota, and Verizon for their generous support that has enabled PLTW to effectively serve its network of schools and districts in a distance learning environment.
- Last but not least, PLTW Team Members, who represent years of experience in the classroom and as administrators, and bring significant expertise in instructional design, activity-project-problem-based content development, student engagement, and teacher professional development.

\* Oliver, W. (2019). *Not your Mama's classroom: What you need to know as a parent about your child's digital education*. Lifewise Books.

