



# Empower **remote learning** for K-12 education

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## Schools need remote learning more than ever

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In this unprecedented time, remote learning has become a necessity for schools across the world. Your school may be facing new challenges as you work toward creating a learning environment for all remote students, no matter where they are. You have to set up an online learning infrastructure that integrates with your existing tools, providing continuity instead of disrupting the systems you're already using. You need to ensure inclusive access to online learning and resources, especially for students that require accommodations for accessibility. You want to communicate with parents and your community as seamlessly as possible, including through events that require larger audiences and additional production capabilities. And as you deploy these new remote learning technologies, you need a way to ensure that teachers, students, and staff are ready for the change and continue to be engaged in this new learning environment.

## Microsoft is empowering remote learning

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With remote learning on the rise, Microsoft is meeting schools across the globe wherever they are on the journey to remote learning. We are helping schools achieve sustainable, inclusive learning at scale, while recognizing the unique needs of specific learning communities. We are providing thousands of education users with the solutions they need right now, so that students, teachers, and staff can all ramp up on distance learning technology as quickly as possible. No matter where you are on your remote learning journey, we're here to help you meet your immediate needs and establish a strong foundation for distance and blended learning in the future.

### Microsoft's investments in education

**1,000+**

free learning paths to help teach technology skills

**400+**

engineers building education-specific technologies

**\$1.2B+**

in software and services donated to 90,000+ nonprofits

**\$75M+**

donated to YouthSpark to improve digital literacy

**110+**

nonprofits partnering with Microsoft to reach millions of learners



# Meet your immediate needs with innovative solutions

Microsoft can help tackle the remote learning challenges you're facing right now with solutions that integrate seamlessly with your existing infrastructure. Here are a few initial steps you can take to empower remote learning across your school.

## 1 Roll out Office 365 A1 with Teams at no cost

Available at no cost for education, Microsoft Teams and Office 365, together with inclusive tools like Immersive Reader, help every student access coursework, participate in discussions, and attend video lectures anywhere and on any device. Microsoft Teams unites users in an inclusive and highly secure collaboration hub where they can access all the applications they need for remote learning in one place. While Teams can function as a complete virtual classroom on its own, you can also integrate with solutions you already have in place, like your learning management system (LMS). In addition, Teams offers connectors for hundreds of third-party apps, such as Zoom. Visit [aka.ms/officeeducation](https://aka.ms/officeeducation) to get started with Office 365 for free, and visit [aka.ms/TeamsEduRemote](https://aka.ms/TeamsEduRemote) for helpful advice on deployment.

## 2 Set up virtual desktops and labs

Do your educators, staff, or students need to access resources remotely? Windows Virtual Desktops allows you to easily deploy democratized, equitable Windows 10 desktop environments for any device with an internet connection. Visit [aka.ms/windowsvirtualdesktop](https://aka.ms/windowsvirtualdesktop) to learn more.

Additionally, Azure Lab Services empowers you to easily set up virtual machines (VMs) for a variety of scenarios—such as running hands-on classes. You can easily configure lab VMs with the right content and even give each user a set number of hours to complete their homework or projects. And you only pay for active usage in your labs. Visit [this link](#) to learn more.

## 3 Explore free resources, training, and community

Microsoft helps get teachers, students, and staff ramped up on new technologies quickly through online tutorials and learning paths. Visit [microsoft.com/learn](https://microsoft.com/learn) for over 1,000 free learning paths, or visit [aka.ms/office-training](https://aka.ms/office-training) for guidance specific to Office 365. You can also join the Enabling Remote Learning Community at [aka.ms/JoinRemoteLearningCommunity](https://aka.ms/JoinRemoteLearningCommunity) to connect with other users tackling remote learning challenges—supported by a team of Microsoft specialists.





## 4 Get deployment support

Microsoft is here to help every step of the way during your deployment journey, and we have a robust, diverse partner ecosystem to support you. Visit [aka.ms/remote-learning](https://aka.ms/remote-learning) for advice on getting started, or visit [microsoft.com/FastTrack](https://microsoft.com/FastTrack) to sign up for free assistance from Microsoft technical experts.

In tandem with your existing tools and resources, Microsoft solutions help address your immediate needs and set you up for a successful future in digital learning. In the next sections, find practical advice for building inclusive learning environments, empowering instructors and IT staff, and fostering ongoing engagement—all on a foundation of security and compliance.

## Build inclusive remote learning environments

### Run a class session from your existing LMS

Teams integrates with a range of third-party learning management systems—including Canvas, Moodle, Blackboard, and Schoology. These platforms all include options to open a Teams meeting from the LMS interface. To learn more, read [this guide](#).

Microsoft Teams is a unified communication and collaboration hub that brings students, teachers, and staff together in a highly secure environment available on virtually any device—including desktop, mobile, and tablet. Live text, [voice, and video chat](#) allow easy communication, and the live event feature accommodates larger instruction sessions.



[Integrated with Stream](#), Teams enables educators to stream, record, and upload video content, as well as post assignments, give quizzes using built-in apps, and track grades. Teams also connects seamlessly to OneDrive and Office 365 so that users can collaborate on live versions of documents, presentations, worksheets, and more.

Teams and other Microsoft solutions come equipped with inclusive tools that help students of all abilities and backgrounds engage and participate. [Office 365 offers accommodations](#) for neuro-diverse populations and those with visual or auditory impairments, as well as tools to aid English-language learners. With Immersive Reader, Accessibility Checker, voice-to-text, screen reader compatibility, live captions for PowerPoint, in-line message translation in Teams, and more, you can include students of all abilities and backgrounds while meeting key national compliance standards for accessibility.

[Hong Kong Partners in Learning](#) adopted Office 365 Education for their 1,000 primary and secondary schools across the country. Microsoft provided Office 365 on a complimentary basis for over 50,000 teachers and 800,000 students. As schools set up collaborative tools like Teams to conduct classes in real-time, Microsoft also provided deployment support—including trainings to empower local educators and weekly webinars for teachers and IT practitioners. “It is reassuring and encouraging to see



how technology can transform and elevate education with greater agility and flexibility,” said Kenneth Cheng, principal of Christian & Missionary Alliance Sun Kei Primary School.

## Empower educators and IT staff

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### Automate class team creation with School Data Sync

[School Data Sync \(SDS\)](#) eases the transition to new solutions by syncing them with your existing Student Information System. SDS can use information from your student rosters to create classes and groups in Teams, Intune for Education (a tool to simplify setup and management of devices), and third-party applications—helping to make it easy for IT staff and instructors to set up class teams.

Microsoft enables IT, educators, and staff with training, professional development, and technical support as they shift to a new way of working. With a vast selection of online tutorials to help all users learn remote learning

tools or further their ongoing education in other technologies, Microsoft offers an industry-leading array of free resources. Along with tutorials on Office 365 and other Microsoft solutions, Microsoft’s website includes [over 1,000 learning paths](#) on cutting-edge computer science and technology topics, from quantum computing to machine learning to data science. There are also free training courses, webinars, and other resources in the Microsoft Educator Center.

Teams, Windows Virtual Desktops, and other solutions assist with remote work as well as remote learning. IT can use [Virtual Desktops](#) to set up virtualizations of on-premises systems, so that teachers, staff, and students can access all the resources they’re used to remotely. And solutions like Office 365 and Teams work across devices—including Windows, Mac, iPhone, Android, and Chromebook—to make remote collaboration easier for staff who are working from home.

For instance, [Holy Names Academy](#) in Seattle, Washington, adopted Microsoft Teams, OneNote, and School Data Sync to encourage digital collaboration across the school and give students practical technology skills. Teachers began using OneNote Class Notebooks to distribute assignments and gather student work, and School Data Sync saved their time by automating team and notebook creation



based on Student Information System data. Teachers picked up on the new technology quickly, as did students; after using Office 365 tools to collaborate on group projects, many students expressed immediate excitement and gave positive feedback on the technology. “Because of the way School Data Sync simplifies team and notebook creation and management, I am able to direct much more time and energy to directly helping students,” said Sean Harris-Campf, Social Studies Teacher and Technology Chair.

## Foster ongoing engagement

### Host a virtual commencement or schoolwide address

Teams supports [live, large-scale virtual events](#) for up to 10,000 users so that you can bring together your learning community for district updates, larger instruction sessions, and other events.

Your educational community needs to stay energized in order to keep everyone learning and growing. To help educators maintain student engagement, Microsoft offers free tools like [Flipgrid](#), [MakeCode](#), and [Minecraft: Education Edition](#) to provide immersive, collaborative experiences and hands-on learning. Microsoft also lightens the load of parents and caregivers with prebuilt activities, digital content, and [other resources](#). Equipped with these tools, parents and teachers can stay engaged with students and each other to promote social and emotional well-being for everyone.

As you begin to adopt remote learning solutions at your school, there is plenty

of room to grow and build on existing investments. Between live events, Teams channels, and integrations with hundreds of third-party apps, there are many ways to expand your learning environment and foster community. You can also plug into Microsoft’s global [Enabling Remote Learning Community](#) to learn best practices and connect with others invested in education.

Take the example of [Mara Junior Science College](#) in Malaysia, the first school in its country to adopt Minecraft: Education Edition. A Microsoft Showcase School, the college introduced Minecraft: Education Edition to students to empower project-based learning around skills like collaboration, creative problem solving, communication, and digital technology. Teachers used curricula from the Minecraft: Education Edition website, which contains content for a range of subjects including computer science. Students have been engaged in the new program and excited to learn in this innovative way. “Our students are engaged and excited to learn in the fun, familiar Minecraft environment, and they have learned a number of skills in the process—things like computational thinking, digital citizenship, and of course, creativity,” said Mohammad Aliff Bin Othman, a teacher at the college.



## Build on a highly secure and compliant platform

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Microsoft's technologies are built on a trusted cloud platform. Microsoft has over 3,500 global security experts supporting the platform around the clock, as well as over \$1 billion invested per year on security research and development. Using AI and automation, Azure offers advanced endpoint security to protect devices, provides visibility and control of cloud apps, defends your information with encryption and data loss protection, and helps manage identities and access with Azure Active Directory. Office 365 also offers powerful protection for educational institutions, with different security features depending on which plan you choose; for instance, the A5 plan offers Advanced Security Management. [Visit this article](#) to read more about available plans.

In addition, Azure leads the industry in compliance with over [90 certifications](#), including FERPA, WCAG, and other certifications relevant to education and accessibility. [Microsoft 365 A5](#) offers even more compliance features, including Advanced eDiscovery and Advanced Data Governance.

## Get started

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Microsoft has been a philanthropic and strategic partner to schools for decades. Between diverse offerings for learning and skills development, millions of dollars donated toward education-focused nonprofits, and numerous in-depth studies to help shape the future of education, we're invested now and for the future. During this time, we're maintaining and expanding our education investments, and we remain deeply committed to our mission of empowering every student on the planet achieve more.

To learn more and determine which solutions are right for your school, contact a Microsoft representative [through this portal](#), or explore these resources below:

[Enabling Remote Learning Community](#)

[FastTrack](#)

[Microsoft Educator Center](#)

[Office 365 for Education](#)

