

# THINGS TO KNOW

What you can do now

Brought to you by the Office Of African American Affairs



## IN THIS ARTICLE YOU WILL FIND:

What you can do now to start  
the 2020-2021 school year

Resources and links to helpful  
information for:

- Ways to stay connected
- Re-entry for NM Schools
- Next Steps
- Internet Option
- Lunches



## LETS START WITH THE BASICS

by Chaslyn Wenze - Social/CommunityOutreach Coordinator for the Office of African American Affairs

As the school year begins, we understand parents have many unanswered questions. Our hope is these articles will answer some of those questions and get you and your child(ren) headed in the right direction to start the new 2020-2021 school year best you can.

Because the situation can feel so overwhelming at this time, we are providing limited information to help guide you in preparing for the start of the school year. Please note these are only suggestions. Please make sure to stay connected to your school so you aren't missing out on other important information.

## **What you should be doing NOW:**

Call the school to get information about distribution of technology to students and virtual home visit schedules.

### **Stay Connected:**

Check your child's school website often for updated information. If you don't know the website for your child's school, visit [here](#) to find your schools info to find their website.

If you are not getting the automated calls from your school, contact the school to see how to get your number added. The information from these calls is helpful because it will be specific to your child's school.

## **School Models**

School models may vary by district. Please visit your schools website or PED's website to learn more about how re-entry will work for your school.

Learn more about PED's Re-entry plan [here](#)

Visit PED's Parent Portal [here](#)

List of New Mexico Schools [here](#)

### **At this point you should have:**

- Technology for your child to use at home (provided by school)
- Found ways to stay connected with school (know the website and getting automated calls)

### **Things to start thinking of:**

Getting a calendar and/or notebook as your organization system to keep track of assignments and important dates. If your child is in Middle or high school, the school may have provided an agenda. If not, think of creative ways to stay organized such as visiting your dollar tree for a calendar or creating one of your own! This will help with keeping all things organized for you and your child.

How will you stay connected to your child's teacher(s)?

Once you know this information, ask how they will be communicating with parents. Most teachers use apps such as Remind app, Class Dojo, See Saw etc. to stay connected and send out information. Ask these questions so you know! If you child is in Middle or High school, Google classroom is one that is used more often but again, ASK QUESTIONS!



## **Academics are scheduled to start in August Check with your school for start dates.**

Review [this resource](#) provided by the Public Education Department for lots of great information on online learning resources your child can be doing to help with academics at home along with lots of other resources for parents.

### **Internet Options**

Because the school year will be starting off with students at home, make sure you have access to internet.

Comcast is offering options for low-income families starting at \$9.95/mo. [Click here for more info](#)

### **School Lunches**

Visit your schools district website to find out more information on meal distribution. Make sure you are aware of the process and locations of when/where meals will be distributed.

Most importantly, don't forget to breath! You have accomplished a lot following the steps in this article. Know that we are in this together. You are on your way to a great year with your child(ren)! Keep up the good work and make sure to stay tuned for the next article as we move forward with navigating this new school year together.