

City of Oberlin, Oberlin City Schools and Oberlin Cable Co-op to Provide Free Internet and Technology to Eligible Oberlin Students

OBERLIN, OHIO – (March 27, 2020) – The City of Oberlin, Oberlin City Schools and Oberlin Cable Co-op have worked together to provide free internet service and computers to eligible students during the current school closure due to the COVID-19 situation. This would greatly assist students in continuing their education during the school closure, as many of the district’s educational programs are web-based.

During the school closure, Oberlin City Schools has identified approximately 250 families—nearly one-fourth of the district’s families—that do not have access to the technology necessary to participate in the district’s web-based educational programs. While the school district has offered paper continuing education packets to students during the closure, it is evident that the lack of technology in these homes will limit the students’ ability to receive the best possible education during this unprecedented time.

Eligible families will receive internet service within the home provided by Oberlin Cable Co-op and students will be provided Lenovo computers for the months of May and June. Funding for the technology will be provided through the City of Oberlin’s Sustainable Reserve Fund, in support of strategies identified in the City of Oberlin Climate Action Plan’s Education and Outreach, and Resiliency chapters.

Students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program are eligible to receive the free technology services. Oberlin City Schools recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic may have altered families’ financial situations, resulting in additional students needing assistance through the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and the free technology services program. Families may apply for the Free and Reduced Lunch program in addition to applying for the technology services. Applications for the free technology services will be accepted beginning on Monday, March 30, 2020. Applications are available online at www.oberlinschools.net and available for pick-up at the Oberlin Schools’ continuing education packet pick-up locations and Free Breakfast & Lunch Program locations, IGA, Dollar General, or call (440) 776-4699.

Oberlin Schools Superintendent, Dr. David Hall states, “On behalf of our students, staff, and families, we would like to thank the Oberlin Cable Co-op and the City of Oberlin for providing support during this pandemic. The support provided made great strides in the area of equity for our families. I am proud to be a part of a city that stands by its great historical reputation.”

For more information, please contact Steve Nielsen at (440) 776-4699 or snielsen@oberlinschools.net.

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