

How Educators Can Integrate PBS Programming and Resources into PreK-12 Instruction for Summer Programs

Purpose

This document serves as an update to the previously published document, [How Educators Can Integrate PBS Learning Media into PreK-12 Instruction](#). The purpose of this document is to explain how utilizing PBS At-Home Learning and other forms of media can enhance student learning. The Vermont Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and Agency of Education (AOE) continue to partner to support learning for our students and school communities, providing access to free educational programming resources via television broadcasts and online streaming. The curriculum-supported PreK through grade 12 programming is aligned to national standards and includes interactive lessons and suggested activities. Learn more by visiting the [AOE Vermont PBS At-Home Learning](#) webpage.

How Television and Other Digital Media Can Promote Learning

Television and other digital media can be used to:

- **Reinforce and enhance remote learning material.** Seeing and hearing can add value to a lesson as multisensory opportunities aid in memory and retention.
- **Promote an equity lens.** Media provides an opportunity for students to view other cultures, races, religions and lifestyles of individuals different from those of their family or current living environment. This can promote consideration of multiple points of view.
- **Support the needs of diverse student populations.** In consideration of the needs of students who are multilingual or require additional supports, accommodations and modifications may be met by providing two modes of delivering material (aural and visual). Supplemental content may include printed learning materials, phone contact, email, technology-based virtual instruction or a combination to meet diverse student needs and/or goals.
- **Make real world connections.** Digital media can increase student interest and enthusiasm by connecting learning to everyday life and create opportunities for students to engage in content and transferable skills.
- **Enhance language learning.** The opportunity to hear spoken language exposes students to a range of dialects, accents and formal usage. It also encourages world language exploration and initiates conversations regarding different word use and choice that students may not be accustomed to.

Contact Information:

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- **Make cross-disciplinary connections.** Television and other digital media can provide implicit connections to research, communication and storytelling, as well as explicit connections to specific academic content. In addition, it can:
 - Promote global citizenship by helping students recognize that our world is increasingly complex and interdependent.
 - Contribute to academic proficiency by exposing students to essential concepts in academic domains and encouraging them to ask effective questions to acquire knowledge and apply that knowledge in authentic situations.
 - Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by encouraging students to evaluate information critically and develop skills of inquiry to solve real-world problems.

How to Access PBS Programming and Resources

Ways to Watch

- PBS Main Channel (which is broadly available throughout the state and does not require cable)
 - 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. - programming for PreK-grade 3
 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - programming for grades 4-8
- PBS Plus+ Channel (WGBH):
 - Noon to 5 p.m. - programming for grades 6-12
 - Streaming (PBS Kids, PBS Kids app, other streaming services)

How to Use Resources

To access early programming schedules with links to supporting resources, visit the [AOE PBS webpage](#) and scroll down to the Week-Ahead or visit the [PBS At-Home Learning](#) landing page (also accessible via the AOE webpage) and scroll down. Below each channel's header, you will see a weekly schedule with links to resources connected to programming. Here you can download the weekly programming schedule or continue to scroll down to see curriculum resources. In some cases, you can click on a linked program title to view the program (i.e., *Nova: Dead Sea Scroll Detectives*). In other cases, you can select a resource bundle connected to a specific episode or topic (i.e., PBS Learning Media: Paint-a-Long for Monday's episode of *Peg + Cat*).

The screenshot shows the Vermont PBS website with two main sections: **MAIN** and **PLUS+**. The **MAIN** section is for educational programming for preschool to grade 8, with a 'Start here' link to the 'Download Main Channel Weekly Programming Schedule (pdf)' and a link to 'Curriculum Resources'. Below this, it lists programs for 'Preschool - Grade 3 | 7:00 am - 3:00 pm' and 'Peg + Cat - 7 a.m.'. The **PLUS+** section is for educational programming for grades 6 to 12, with a 'Start here' link to the 'Download PLUS+ Channel Weekly Programming Schedule (pdf)' and a link to 'Curriculum Resources'. Below this, it lists programs for 'Monday, June 15' and 'Tuesday, June 16'. Red arrows point to the 'Curriculum Resources' link in the Main section, the 'Peg + Cat - 7 a.m.' program title, and the 'Life from Above: Moving Planet 12 p.m.' program title in the PLUS+ section.

On the Main channel, each program title is linked to a newly created Incorporating PBS resource bundle (such as this one for [Hero Elementary](#)) that contains the following:

- Program title, suggested grade level(s), ways to watch and description;
- Connections to the [Vermont Early Learning Standards](#) (VELS) or other Vermont State Standards; and
- Resources for educators and families (including links to PBS Kids, PBS Parents and PBS Learning Media collections specific to that program), episode specific lessons and activities developed by AOE content specialists, [COVID-19-related resources](#), a link to the [AOE's Continuity of Learning](#) page, and suggestions of other PBS programs to watch.

Each PBS Learning Media collection contains videos, lesson plans, interactives, and more. Many are organized by topic or standards-alignment.



Within a specific resource, you can toggle between episode and lesson information, support materials (i.e., background reading, printable activities, teaching tips, etc.), and standards aligned to that lesson or activity. Resources and activities can be assigned via Google Classroom, emailed to students, or printed and sent home to families.



Focus on Families

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends watching and discussing television programs with children. This will help children understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them. While limits are still important, it's understandable that under these stressful circumstances, a child's screen media use will likely increase ([PreK Learning from Home: Supplemental Resources for Families](#)).

While watching programs on television, using the computer or engaging in on-line activities, families can interact with children before, during and/or after. Conversations, including asking questions, can help children to prepare, comprehend, respond to and interact with digital content. If it is not possible for families to view and interact with their children while watching programs, either on television or online, parents can talk about the program before the child

engages and suggest things to watch for or think about ([Guidelines for Families and Guardians of PreK-5 Students](#)).

The activities and resources aligned with PBS programming this summer will focus on resources for families. Families of younger children may find information on the [Sesame Street in Communities](#) and [PBS Parents](#) websites. The [NCPMI Family Resources](#) page may be helpful in maintaining schedules as well as social and emotional skills throughout the summer.

Resources

[Vermont PBS Channel Finder](#)