

Do you need guidance to support your student? 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 (or distance) learning, and one of the most important things is to provide support to the learner. You play an important role in that support. A helpful additional resource is the [PLTW Guide to Online Learning for Students \(Grades PreK-5\)](#).

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 your 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.

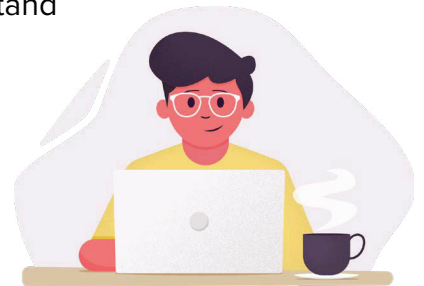
Creating the Learning Environment

- 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 set up their computer/device so that they are ready to learn online.
- I create a calendar to help my student manage their learning time.
- I work with my student and their teacher to create learning goals and define expectations. I assist my student as they learn, as needed.



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 LMS (Learning Management System).
- I collaborate with educators and my student to monitor their learning progress.
- I guide and model respectful communication for my student with others in their learning environment.
- I use the [Online Learning Readiness Rubric](#) with my student to understand where they need the most support.
- 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 from school personnel.
- 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 \(Grades PreK-5\)](#) to provide support for my student.

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- 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.