

Agency of Education and Vermont PBS Renew Distance Learning Partnership

Continued Partnership Gives Over 83,000 Vermont Students Access To Free, High-Quality Educational Resources

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MONTPELIER, Vt. – The [Vermont Agency of Education](https://www.vermont.gov) (AOE) has renewed and expanded a partnership with Vermont PBS to provide content and resources to support in-person, hybrid and remote learning for Vermont students this fall. These resources are designed to help teachers, families and community members who provide home study, remote, hybrid or in-person instruction. This partnership includes continued educational broadcasts on the Vermont PBS main channel and professional learning materials designed to help educators incorporate PBS content into their teaching.

“I continue to be grateful to Vermont PBS for their partnership,” said Secretary of Education **Dan French**. “PBS joined us early on, providing wonderful educational content and resources to support Vermont students’ learning. They are continuing to work with us to support schools, families, and most importantly students, with hybrid and remote learning.”

“When Vermont PBS was founded, over 50 years ago, surely no one imagined educational commercial-free broadcast as an essential service in response to a pandemic,” said Vermont PBS CEO **Steve Ferreira**. “But educational and cultural opportunity has been at the heart of our mission, right from the beginning and we are committed to this collaboration with the Agency of Education in our continuing efforts to help Vermont families and teachers stay positive, educated and connected.”

This fall, PBS Educational broadcasts will be on the following days, times and channels:

- For PreKindergarten to Grade 5: Monday to Friday - 24/7 Kids Channel & Main Channel 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- For Grades 6 to 12: Monday to Friday - PLUS Channel noon to 5 p.m.

In a 2020 Survey, educators and parents commented about the benefits of having access to PBS programming:

“I have used PBS Newshour reports, NOVA videos, science experiment links (Design Squad), and PBS Passport documentaries on civilizations and religions, and Great Performances. Students LOVE the content--very provocative and interesting and beautiful.”

“All media and information was engaging for students and gave clear age appropriate information.”

“Thank you for offering everything that is available. What an incredible gesture of community support.”

The partnership continues and expands its supports to Vermont schools and school districts, focusing on content area, theme, or project, as opposed to organizing resources around a weekly program schedule. Themes for preschool to Grade 5 on 24/7 and Main Channels in September include: Nature, Me and My Family, Weather, and Caring for Yourself and Others. Programs for Grades 6 to 12 on the PLUS Channel in September include: Ken Burns' The War; Unladylike 2020; Power Trip: The Story of Energy and Prehistoric Road Trip; Poetry in America; and a series on Native America.

The AOE's partnership with PBS will also leverage the VTed Learns Network, the State's new platform for teacher networking and professional learning, to further integrate PBS content, curriculum planning, and webinars. A cross-discipline AOE and PBS team will continue to identify and develop resources with the assistance of a new advisory group of teacher and librarian volunteers beginning September 2020.

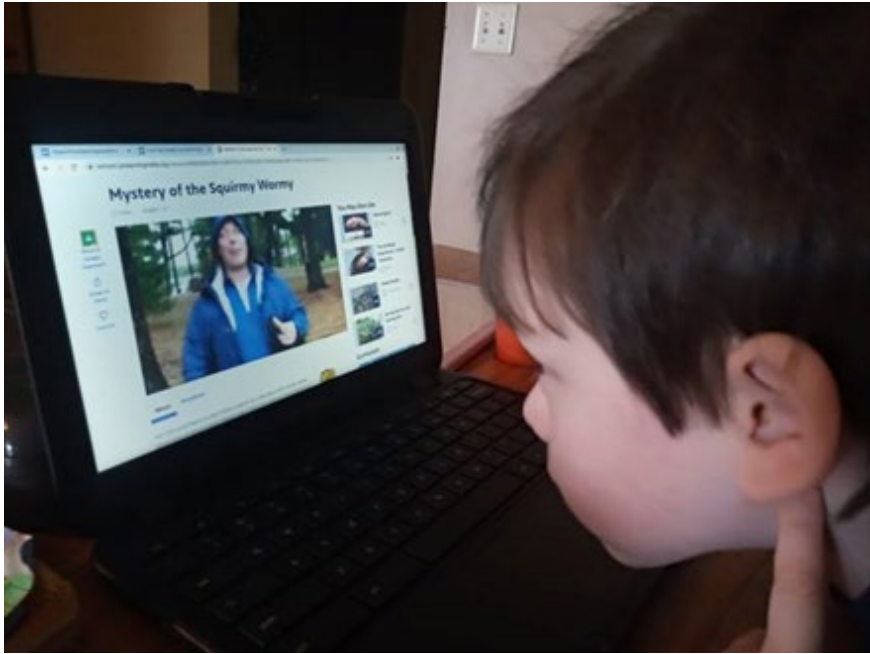
Finally, Vermont PBS and the Agency of Education are co-presenting a series of professional learning webinars and digital learning modules to support teachers, families, school technology leaders and librarians. Topics include resource navigation, media use and digital literacy.

Vermont PBS digital module topics include:

- Becoming a Media Mentor
- Tech-Savvy
- Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That (connected to Ready to Learn preschool workshops)
- Mister Chris and Friends: Curriculum for Hands and Hearts

Webinar topics, co-presented by Vermont PBS and the AOE, include:

- Beyond Screen Time: The Fundamentals of PBS LearningMedia Navigation
- Playful Learning Collections for Home: Resources for Parents
- Natural Themes and Project-Based Learning Connections: Incorporating PBS into our Curriculum.



A Vermont remote student watches “the Mystery of the Squirmy Wormy,” a Wild Kratts episode, as part of his remote learning.

About Vermont PBS

Vermont PBS connects neighbors through stories that change lives. As Vermont’s only statewide independent TV station, Vermont PBS is a powerful catalyst that informs, educates, and inspires. When you support Vermont PBS, you help all Vermonters learn, grow, and contribute to our great state and the world. Learn more at vermontpbs.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Vermont Agency of Education

The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont’s public education system.

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