

# Engaging Students in Learning At Home

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CPS encourages families to involve their students in educational activities at home to promote continued learning outside the classroom. The following are suggested resources to aid you in supporting student learning at home.

## Learning Targets

To increase student achievement in core subject areas, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Teaching + Learning has developed a set of [Learning Targets](#) that outline fundamental learning expectations for students, parents and teachers in the areas of Reading/Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. To learn more about the learning objectives for your student, per grade, click [here](#).

## Reading and Writing Literacy

**Every Student, Every Day! Reading and Literacy Initiative**  
Implementing *Every Student, Every Day!* at home makes literacy instruction engaging and fun for your students. Research tells us that certain basic literacy routines significantly impact student achievement, and the following simple practices can be initiated without requiring a lot of professional development. Have your students:

### Read something they like and understand.

- ✓ Provide student choice in reading materials.
- ✓ Confer with students frequently about their book and check for understanding and interest.
- ✓ Provide independent reading time EVERY DAY.
- ✓ Have students create “favorite” book lists, give book talks and write book reviews.

### Write something meaningful.

- ✓ Provide journals and encourage students to write what they feel, think and enjoy.
- ✓ Have students study topics such as their favorite authors, their motivations, and their inspirations.

### Listen to an adult read aloud.

- ✓ Create time in your schedule to read aloud to students.

### Talk about what they read and write.

- ✓ Spark discussion with open-ended questions such as “What challenges did the main character of the book encounter?” or “Summarize what you just read.”
- ✓ Have your family discuss what your student is reading and writing at home.

## Online Learning Resources General Resources

**Thinkfinity.org:** [www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org) (Grades K-12)

Verizon Foundation’s comprehensive website containing more than 55,000 educational resources, including grade-specific, K-12 lesson plans, interactive tools and reference materials.

**eCUIP:** <http://ecuiplib.uchicago.edu> (Grades 3-12)

Reference and reading materials specifically created in support of the CPS curriculum.

**Scholastic for Kids Online Lessons:**

[www2.scholastic.com/browse/learn](http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/learn) (Grades K-8)

Mix of student activities covering a variety of subjects.

**HippoCampus:** [www.hippocampus.org](http://www.hippocampus.org)

The goal of HippoCampus is to provide high-quality, multimedia content on general education subjects to high school and college students.

## Math and Science

**Discovery Education:** [www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com) (Grades K-12)

**Cool Math for Kids:** [www.coolmath.com/](http://www.coolmath.com/) (Grades K-12)

## Social Science

**History Channel for Teachers:**

[www.history.com/shows/classroom](http://www.history.com/shows/classroom) (Grades 6-8)

A free site offered by *History Channel* that provides lesson plans and student activities. (6-12)

**The History Makers:** <http://thehistorymakers.com/> (Grades 4-12)

Free online source for African American biographies, history, timelines and events.

**Encyclopedia of Chicago:**

<http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org> (Grades 6-12)

Free, comprehensive reference source of Chicago history. (6-12)

**The Library of Congress:** [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) (Grades K-12)

Digital collection includes more than 8 million primary source materials, including historic maps, documents and audio/video.

## Reading and Writing Literacy

**Chicago Public Libraries:** [www.chipubliclib.org](http://www.chipubliclib.org) (Grades K-12)

**International Children’s Digital Library Foundation:**

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org> (Grades K-8)

Digital library of outstanding children’s books from around the world. The ICDL collection includes 4,457 books in 54 languages.

**Chicago Striving Readers:** (Grades 5-8)

[www.chicagostrivingreaders.org](http://www.chicagostrivingreaders.org) and  
[www.chicagostrivingreaderswikispaces.com](http://www.chicagostrivingreaderswikispaces.com)

## Games

[www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) (Grades K-12)

Donates rice to fight world hunger the more questions you answer.

[www.mrnussbaum.com/gamescode.htm](http://www.mrnussbaum.com/gamescode.htm)

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## DimensionU Video Gaming System Available to CPS Students for Free through Monday!

In hopes of extending additional educational resources to our students during this period of poor weather, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) reached out to our partners at Tabula Digita, creator of the DimensionU multi-player educational videogame software.

DimensionU engages students in videogames that teach math and literacy, enabling students to play the multi-user videogames with or against each other, while learning at the same time. Used in schools since 2007, DimensionU has demonstrated improved results in mathematics.

In response to school closures and dangerous weather keeping students at home, Tabula Digita has generously offered to extend use of DimensionU to all CPS students – free of charge – through Monday.

In addition, students utilizing the system can also enroll free of charge in the Tabula Digita's U Games National Scholarship Tournament where the middle school winner can win a \$50,000 scholarship and the elementary winner can win a \$10,000 scholarship.

Instructions on accessing DimensionU are the following:

- ✓ Visit [www.DimensionU.com](http://www.DimensionU.com).
- ✓ Create an account by simply clicking the SIGN-UP link on the top right of the page.
- ✓ Tell us who you are, enter an email for your parent or guardian and make up a Username, Password and Game Name.
- ✓ Click "CREATE ACCOUNT."
- ✓ You now can Register for the U Games National Scholarship Tournament, or hold off and do it later. It's free and you can win hundreds of prizes. Whenever you decide to register, be sure to have your parent or guardian check their email boxes so they can approve your participation.
- ✓ Download the DimensionU Games software for your Mac or PC, install and PLAY
- ✓ For assistance, email [support@tabuladigita.com](mailto:support@tabuladigita.com), call 888-9-TABULA (888-982-2852), or visit [www.dimensionu.com/support](http://www.dimensionu.com/support).

**Many thanks to Tabula Digita for its support of our students!**

## Discovery Education Available to CPS Students!

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) also reached out to our partners at Discovery Education. They have generously made available a collection of resources across grades K-12 in the areas of English/language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Whether used exactly as written or modified to incorporate additional learning objectives, the activities can assist in keeping kids engaged in learning.

Get started using this powerful tool today! Log in and search for "Readyzone" or go to

<http://teachers.discoveryeducation.com/readyZone/index.cfm>

**Student Username:** CPS2011

**Student Password:** student

Looking for a guide? Log in and go here: [www.discoveryeducation.com/GettingStarted](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/GettingStarted).

Access a parent training video here: <http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=3fe0f08c-0c08-41b0-a9a7-06d7a86595e6>

**Many thanks to Discovery Education for its support of our students!**

**CPS will continue to update this suggested resource guide. Check back soon!**

**Questions? Visit [www.chicagoteachingandlearning.org](http://www.chicagoteachingandlearning.org) or call 773.553.5060.**