

How Microsoft and schools are helping students with no access or low bandwidth

Many education institutions around the world are affected by limited access to internet. Microsoft is continuing to make a difference, not only in light of recent events, with the growth of remote learning, but also with schools, students, teacher and IT Admins around the globe dealing with low bandwidth issues.

Leveraging Microsoft Teams to adapt to low bandwidth situations

Virtual meetings can be impacted by low bandwidth, especially video meetings. Below are some actions that an IT Admin should consider to improve the quality of online classes



Meeting policy. In addition to Teams being able to scale to detected bandwidth automatically, IT Admins can set policy options at the per-organizer and/or per-user level to give everyone the best experience with the bandwidth they have



Screen sharing policies. Educators may be sharing their entire desktop to students, when sharing should be limited to an application relevant to the lesson being taught. Screen sharing options can be set via policy to reduce bandwidth strain



Dial-in number for meetings. It may be easier for some students to attempt to dial in to some classroom sessions. You can provide a dial-in number for Teams meetings, so students with issues can phone in as an alternative to attending a video meeting

[Learn more](#) about how Teams can help resolve low bandwidth issues [here](#)

Adapting to low bandwidth situations with Microsoft OneNote

OneNote is a popular education application that can be optimized for low or no bandwidth. IT Admins should consider how teachers and students are utilizing their class notebooks and assist with the below tips and tricks.



Avoid embedding large files. This includes PDFs and large Word documents with lots of images or tables. If you need to embed an image, reduce the size of the image to approximately 1MB



Utilize content libraries. Use the Content Library in your class notebook for reference material for students rather than distributing an individual page to each student. Also consider uploading to a class OneDrive or SharePoint site



Encourage set sync times. Auto syncing a OneNote uses bandwidth throughout the day. Turn off the auto sync feature and work with teachers to coordinate set sync times for students and teachers

[Learn more](#) about how OneNote can help resolve low bandwidth issues [here](#)

Rallying together as a community

Addressing low bandwidth can sometimes seem like a daunting task, but with community and parent support, schools are able to adjust to ensure every student has the proper access and opportunity to learn in these unprecedented times.

The Flint Cultural Center Academy uses the OneNote desktop application to be able to distribute online materials by utilizing the schools outdoor WiFi access points to sync the notebooks anytime they are in range. Then, students may work offline while the computer saves their work until the next time the student has access to internet. Students' OneNote notebooks automatically sync when they are in our parking lot and students can also work without having to be connected to the internet once they received the files from any WiFi access.

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Additional resource for Education

[Tech support](#)

[Educator communities](#)

[Free A1 subscriptions to Office 365 and Teams](#)

[UNESCO Global Education Coalition](#)