



## General

*“Every Child Can Learn... Every Child Must Learn”*

# Schools' Bulletin

**ATTENTION: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN AND PRINCIPALS  
OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) TOOLS**

**Dear Colleagues,**

The Ministry of Education, Youth & Information, as part of the thrust to support schools in the delivery of quality education, amidst the unprecedented disruption of normal school operation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will enable the system to access technological devices, a National Learning Management System, internet service and e-Resources, to commence the teaching learning process for the new school year.

### **Tablets/Laptops for Students**

To augment the 18,000 tablets and in excess of 12,000 desktop computers already in the school system, the Ministry will procure and distribute additional tablets and laptops, commencing with the distribution of 40,000 tablets for PATH students effective October 2, 2020. All high schools have been provided with the funding to procure laptops for students at Grades 10-13 who are on PATH and for other vulnerable students as identified. All other tablets will be procured by eLearning Jamaica and distributed to schools. Please note that eLearning will also be working with the high schools to support the procurement of the laptops.

In addition, the E-Learning Jamaica Company has completed the distribution of tablets to teachers under the Tablets for Teachers JTA Heads of Agreement. Those teachers who have not yet received based on the time they were employed will be dealt with before the end of the Christmas term.

The protocol for distribution of the tablets/computers along with supporting forms were circulated previously but are attached to this bulletin for ease of reference. Attached to this bulletin as well is the Ministry's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy for use by schools to guide parents who will be procuring technological devices for their children. The specifications for tablets and laptops are also attached.

### **National Learning Management System (LMS)**

Consequent to the Ministry's partnership with Google, commencing September 14, 2020 all educational institutions will be provisioned with a G-Suite for Education account through the MOESCHOOLS.edu.jm domain and this will facilitate the implementation of the National Learning Management System at no cost to all institutions. The MOESCHOOLS.edu.jm account will provide schools with access to

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the full G-Suite for education applications. G-Suite for Education is a learning management application, that includes the Google Classroom, which can be deployed school wide as a single space to host all online classes while at school or from a remote location. Included in Google Classroom is “Google Meet” which supports live interactive teaching and learning activities. The National Learning Management System will also provide school leaders, teachers and students with access to a collection of applications to perform the following tasks and more:

1. Manage email accounts
2. Create presentation
3. Schedule and track events
4. Centrally store files
5. Create spreadsheet documents
6. Create and share Quizzes
7. Perform word processing
8. Utilize the electronic whiteboard (Jamboard)
9. Record Students' Grades
10. Provide access to central monitoring for Education Officers to better support schools

To support the efficient implementation and utilization of the National LMS, the Ministry has made ongoing Google Classroom training available to all teachers, through the Jamaica Teaching Council (JTC) and through partnerships with local and overseas universities. Principals, Vice Principals and other middle managers are now able to access training through the National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL). School-based System Administrators will also receive training provided by the Enterprise School Management System Unit which commenced on August 27, 2020 and will be done throughout the month of September, 2020.

As a reminder, school administrators are asked to register their institution for this service by completing and submitting the registration form. Click here: [National LMS Registration Form](#). Schools with their own G-Suite for education account are being asked to also complete the registration form and indicate the name of their G-Suite domain.

Schools that have started to use the G-Suite or other LMS should endeavour to switch over or work with our technical team to integrate their domain with the MOESchools.edu.jm domain so that they can benefit from the fully funded benefits afforded under the Ministry's partnership with Google. Schools that are currently using other solutions such as the School Management System (SMS) offered by Renweb, Smart Term and other services providers can continue to do so while we provide the technical support and required resources to enable these partnerships.

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## **Free Access to Education Data/Internet Support**

The Ministry has entered into partnership with Flow Jamaica, Digicel Jamaica and ReadyTV to facilitate internet access and broadband services to enable the teaching and learning in all schools utilizing the G-Suite Learning Management System domain being provided. This means that all principals, teachers, students and parents can now be engaged in virtual/online teaching and learning activities without the need to utilize their personal internet data. All the technical processes are being implemented including training of key stakeholders. Full access will be enabled by October 12, 2020.

Flow and Digicel will also continue to offer their reduced Education Data Plans. Once an individual subscribes to an education data plan, in addition to voice minutes and data, they will have zero-rated access to 17 frequently used learning platforms and websites via the flow network and 128 frequently used learning platforms and websites via the Digicel network. Please see the list of sites attached.

ReadyTV will continue the installation of their system in the 100 communities approved by the Ministry. The Ministry is also exploring other initiatives to support the other 138 schools that cannot access any network. The details of this arrangement will be shared in a subsequent Bulletin.

## **Free Access to MoEYI eResources Application**

The MoEYI has partnered with App Developers, Content Producers and Curators to address the needs for e-resources at the school level. Some of our content providers are Book Fusion, Learning Hub Online, CHEETAH, Friends in the End, and the eLibrary Project. Additionally, the Ministry will utilize other approved apps such as Calculation Time and free Apps that have been evaluated and found to be suitable for the different levels of the system. These have been pooled together and are accessible under the MoEYI eResources App both on and offline.

All users of electronic devices (tablets/computers supplied by the Ministry or procured by guardians), will gain access to the MoEYI e-Resources App which is a single platform for all resources that provide both online and offline access to eBooks, content, worksheets, quizzes etc. aligned to the National Standards Curriculum and the Primary Exit Profile (NSC and PEP) as well as other interactive learning solutions targeted at the early childhood to the secondary levels.

The Ministry's eResources App is now in the Google Play Store for ease of access to all. Students who receive tablets and laptops can now download. Please note that once downloaded the app will be available offline. Please see the table attached which outlines the content to be provided at the different grade levels on the eResources App.

## **Support for Independent/Private Schools**

- All Basic Schools will be provided with access at no cost to the G-Suite and relevant content through the Early Childhood Commission once the institution is registered.

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- All Independent/Private Schools will also be provided with access to the G-Suite and content once they are registered with the Independent Schools Unit located at the Central Ministry.
- These schools will also be provided with a selected number of tablets/laptops for needy students as identified and based on availability of funds.

A separate bulletin will be sent with the schedule for television and radio as well as the approach being used for the distribution of worksheets for those without internet access.

The Ministry is fully committed to resourcing and transitioning the education system to one that can effectively navigate the new normal by pivoting the odds in our favour and capitalising on the seeds of opportunity through consultations and strategic collaboration. For further information and guidance concerning the National LMS, school administrators are free to contact the ESMS unit by telephone at 876-450-8199/876-612-6058 or by email at [esmshelpdesk@moey.gov.jm](mailto:esmshelpdesk@moey.gov.jm). Please also contact your Regional Offices as the teams are always willing and able to assist you.

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