



What We Do

As students continue learning online or in hybrid formats, school administrators, teachers, students, and families must reimagine education through a lens of digital equity. The Family E-Learning Coaching program provides free and reliable high-speed home internet access and technology coaching to hundreds of individuals and families. Students and their families receive coaching on the instructional tools available to them online.

Well before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and with a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, the Pinellas Education Foundation started a pilot project giving families broadband internet devices to help close the homework gap caused by the lack of reliable internet access in the home. When learning became 100% dependent on internet access, usage of the devices decreased substantially leading the Foundation and district leadership to ask, "How can we better help families?"

The Foundation and district responded by creating the Family E-Learning Coaching program. Coaches work one-on-one with families to build digital literacy skills which help students in accessing online textbooks, homework assignments and other tools to enhance learning.

By the Numbers 2021-22

352 The number of individual coaching sessions completed within first year

45 The average minutes per technology coaching session

93,500 The number of laptops to be provided to Pinellas students, grades 3-10

Coaching Benefits Both Students and Parents

For the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Schools (PCS), bridging the digital learning divide successfully means removing barriers to the access and use of technology tools while accelerating the academic success of youth from diverse backgrounds.

For one local mother, the Family E-Learning Coaching project means that both of her daughters are equipped with PCS Connects devices and internet access. In-home coaching sessions have taught them all new digital literacy skills. Mom can monitor her daughters' grades and attendance online. She can also use the "Clever" platform to check out digital textbooks and monitor her children's reading development using PCS applications.

"I was not aware of the various learning apps on Clever. I can keep track of my students' grades and reading development on the same platform." By having internet access, computers, and knowledge of the PCS apps, her children have a better future, she said.

MORE ABOUT DIGITAL EQUITY

Program Background and Objectives

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way our students learn. Remote learning is here to stay. Regardless of whether students are learning remotely full time or part-time, COVID has taught us that learning without access to the internet puts students and families at a real disadvantage. Beyond learning itself, the ability to track a student's progress, communicate with teachers, and access additional resources all require new tools and the knowledge to use them.

The Family E-Learning Coaching program is available to students, parents, and caregivers who have a student in the K-12 system in Pinellas County. The program is designed to set up families with free internet hotspots and provide training on Clever, Canvas, and other PCS platforms. Coaches can also help with completing online scholarship applications available through the Pinellas Education Foundation. The program includes home visits and assistance via phone, email, and chat, and is available during evenings and on weekends as well as regular business hours.



**Pinellas Education
Foundation**

12090 Starkey Road Largo, FL 33773
pinellaseducation.org