



# SARALAND Board of Education

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**SUPERINTENDENT – Aaron Milner, Ed.D.**

Saraland City Schools is pleased to announce that Governor Kay Ivey has committed \$100 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to deliver free internet access to eligible K-12 students in their homes this fall. The State of Alabama will use the funds to purchase internet service for low-income households with K-12 students so the children can participate in distance learning. The Alabama Broadband Connectivity (ABC) for Students program will provide free internet access for eligible students who choose to participate. We are working to make the enrollment process as easy as possible. If your household is eligible, you will receive complete details and a prepaid voucher that will cover all of your costs by U.S. mail by the end of August. Then all you will have to do is call the internet service provider of your choice, give them your voucher code, and sign up for service.

**Who is eligible?** Families of students currently enrolled in the National School Lunch Program and meet that program's income requirements are eligible for ABC for Students vouchers. Families enrolled in the National School Lunch Program through their local schools will automatically receive an ABC for Students voucher by mail in August.

**What if I am not enrolled in the National School Lunch Program?** If you believe you are eligible for the National School Lunch Program but are not enrolled, please contact Mrs. Pam Patterson ([ppatterson@saralandboe.org](mailto:ppatterson@saralandboe.org)) with Saraland City Schools. She will provide a Free and Reduced Priced Lunch Application and will notify the Alabama Department of Education, if eligibility is determined. Then, your family will automatically receive an ABC for Students voucher by mail.

**What does the ABC for Students voucher cover?** The voucher you receive in the mail will cover the cost of equipment, installation, and high-speed internet service from the fall through December 31, 2020. You will be able to use your voucher once, with one internet service provider, to sign up for service for the duration of the program. Your family will not receive any bills and will not be charged any additional fees by your internet service provider. The State will handle all of the paperwork for you.

**What type of internet service can I get?** Your voucher will cover the cost of service from whichever participating internet service providers are available in your area. Depending on where you live, you might be able to choose from cable, fixed wireless, DSL, satellite, or cellular service. Do not worry, along with your voucher, you will get a list of nearby internet service providers that are ready to sign you up. All you will have to do is pick a provider and call them with your voucher number. They will sign you up, install or send you any equipment you might need, and start your service.

**When will I get my voucher?** The ABC for Students program will automatically mail vouchers in August to every family enrolled in the National School Lunch Program, as provided to the program by the Alabama Department of Education. If you want to confirm enrollment in the National School Lunch Program, please contact Mrs. Pam Patterson ([ppatterson@saralandboe.org](mailto:ppatterson@saralandboe.org)) with Saraland City Schools.

**Who should I call if I have more questions?** Once you receive your voucher, your local participating internet service providers will be able to help you with any questions about signing up for service and any issues with the quality of your service, your installation, and so on.

**Still have questions?** By the time you receive your voucher in the mail in August, a customer service center with a toll-free number for you to call will be made available through the ABC for Students program. They can answer questions about how to use your voucher. For more information about this program, visit [www.abcstudents.org](http://www.abcstudents.org).

We hope you can take advantage of this great opportunity to provide internet access, at no cost, to your household during these difficult times. Remember, if you have questions about eligibility, or you did not receive a voucher by the end of August, contact Mrs. Pam Patterson ([ppatterson@saralandboe.org](mailto:ppatterson@saralandboe.org)) with Saraland City Schools. If you have problems with your service, equipment, or installation, call your internet service provider and they will be ready to help for as long as you have service.