



## **Remote Learning Advocacy Agenda**

February 2021

**Westchester Children's Association** and our Remote Learning Workgroup of school districts, child advocates, and community organizations are working together to ensure all Westchester children and their families have what they need to get the most out of remote learning including affordable access to the internet, adequate computers and devices, and quality digital-literacy training. We strive to provide more support to parents, guardians, and students alike and connect with key stakeholders to deliver services across Westchester County.

We recognize that school districts and families have access to different resources — both during pandemic and long before it. We will use this agenda and resulting actions to promote equity — especially race equity — and close the digital divide in access to technology across the County. Support this work and build strength in numbers by signing on to this agenda.

### **Priority 1: Technology and Internet Access**

- Access to appropriate devices, training, and technological support.

**Action:** Develop local public-private partnerships to cover costs of computers and additional technological needs.

**Action:** Expand quality digital-literacy training for students and caregivers in multiple languages and at various times during the day to go hand-in-hand with device and internet access.

- Access to adequate and affordable internet for all school-age children.

**Action:** Collaborate with local and state elected officials in efforts alongside telecommunication companies and developers to expand Wi-Fi access as an essential utility for all.

### **Priority 2: Remote Learning Support**

- Expand remote learning accommodations for students (including those with special education needs) as well as quality training for parents and guardians who are using online learning for their children.

**Action:** Collaborate with school districts, county departments, and community organizations to meet the social, emotional, and developmental needs of children during remote learning keeping students connected as much as safely possible.

**Action:** Advocate for quality training in multiple languages for parents and guardians using distance learning for their children, accommodating their diverse circumstances, professional and emotional needs and demands, and needs of their children.

### **Priority 3: Mental Health**

- Address mental health, social, and emotional impact of prolonged isolation and remote learning.

**Action:** Expand screening, professional counseling, and support services for teachers, students, and caregivers.