



| Plan | Details | Cost | Pros | Cons |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Basic Internet / T-Mobile | 1.2 GB data/mo at 4G speed, then Unlimited data at 3G speed. Requires wireless hot spot. | \$10/mo + tax + \$39.00 equipment + tax & shipping <i>(one-time, price varies)</i> | Easy sign-up. Guaranteed 1.2 GB/mo at 4G, then unlimited 3G. No contract /eligibility required. | May be slower than wired options. Not good for streaming videos/music. Need good T-Mobile network coverage. |
| Comcast Internet Essentials | Unlimited data. Download speed up to 10 MB/sec. Wired to home. Wireless router provided by Comcast. | \$9.95/mo + tax | Unlimited data. Can keep service as long as eligible. | Must have child eligible for National School Lunch Program or live in public or HUD-assisted housing. Cannot have subscribed to Comcast Internet within the last 90 days or have outstanding debt within the last year. |
| AT&T's Access* | 150 - 250 GB data/mo. Download speed up to 10 MB/sec. Wired to home. Wireless router provided by AT&T. | \$10/mo + tax <i>*Fastest available tier will be automatically assigned by AT&T.</i> | Includes access to nationwide AT&T Wi-Fi Hot Spot network. Can keep service as long as eligible (next 4 years). Easy online form. | Must participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Cannot have outstanding AT&T debt within the last 6 months. Charged \$10/50GB over the data allowance. |
| EPB's Netbridge | Unlimited data. Download speed up to 100 MB/sec. Wired to home. Wireless router provided by EPB. | \$26.99/mo + tax | Unlimited data. Can keep service as long as eligible. Fast speed allows for great streaming of videos/music. | Must have child eligible for National School Lunch Program. No online sign-up. More expensive than other plans. |
| Mobile Beacon | Unlimited data at 4G speed. Prepaid plan. Requires wireless hot spot. Visit pcsforpeople.com/recipients/low-cost-internet | \$120/yr + tax <i>(12 month plan)</i> + \$74.95 equipment <i>(one-time)</i> | Unlimited data. Can keep service as long as eligible. | Must meet income requirements or participate in a government assistance program (SNAP, Head Start, SSD, etc.). Need good Sprint network coverage. Prepaid plan requires money upfront. |

Doing anything on the internet requires DATA, which you will usually see measured in kilobytes, megabytes or gigabytes.

1,000 Kilobytes (KB) = 1 Megabyte (MB) | 1,000 Megabytes (MB) = 1 Gigabyte (GB)

Sending e-mail and visiting websites takes kilobytes (KB) of data. Watching regular videos, listening to music or making a video would all use megabytes (MB) of data. HD movies from services like Netflix and online gaming can call for gigabytes (GB) of data.

| Application | Estimated Data Usage | Amount Per 1GB of Data |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| E-mail | 35 KB per e-mail | about 28.5K e-mails |
| Browsing Website | 500 KB per visit | about 2,000 websites |
| Streaming Video (Non-HD) | 150-500 MB/hour | about 2-7 hours |
| Streaming Music | 60 MB/hour | about 17 hours |
| Video Calls (Skype, etc.) | 300 MB/hour | about 3 hours |

So what does that mean? A student could easily **use between 1.5 and 3 GB of data per month** working on assigned homework (sending emails, visiting websites and watching videos).

Another factor to consider is SPEED, often measured in MB/sec, or megabits per second. Sometimes you will even see it measured the same way as your cell phone service: 3G or 4G.

8 mbps = 1 MB/sec | 3G = 1-5 MB/sec | 4G = 10-15 MB/sec

For websites and small downloads (music files, photos), the difference in speed can be hard to notice. 5 MB/sec is fast enough for one user to stream videos, but if more than one person is online at once, speed will drop. Larger downloads will also take longer on a slower connection. For example, a 100MB video could take two minutes over 3G, but only one second with EPB's Fiber.