



Plan	Details	Cost	Pros	Cons
<b>Basic Internet / T-Mobile</b>	<b>1.2 GB data/mo at 4G speed, then Unlimited data at 3G speed.</b> Requires wireless hot spot.	<b>\$10/mo + tax</b> + <b>\$39.00 equipment + tax &amp; shipping</b> <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.
<b>Comcast Internet Essentials</b>	<b>Unlimited data.</b> Download speed <b>up to 10 MB/sec.</b> Wired to home. Wireless router provided by Comcast.	<b>\$9.95/mo + tax</b>	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.
<b>AT&amp;T's Access*</b>	<b>150 - 250 GB data/mo.</b> Download speed <b>up to 10 MB/sec.</b> Wired to home. Wireless router provided by AT&T.	<b>\$10/mo + tax</b>  <i>*Fastest available tier will be automatically assigned by AT&amp;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. <b>Charged \$10/50GB over the data allowance.</b>
<b>EPB's Netbridge</b>	<b>Unlimited data.</b> Download speed <b>up to 100 MB/sec.</b> Wired to home. Wireless router provided by EPB.	<b>\$26.99/mo + tax</b>	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.
<b>Mobile Beacon</b>	<b>Unlimited data at 4G speed.</b> Prepaid plan. Requires wireless hot spot. Visit <a href="http://pcsforpeople.com/recipients/low-cost-internet">pcsforpeople.com/recipients/low-cost-internet</a>	<b>\$120/yr + tax</b> <i>(12 month plan)</i> + <b>\$74.95 equipment</b> <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.