

## Think Twice Before Choosing Internet-Connected Devices

Many everyday devices, including smart TVs, streaming boxes, phones, tablets, and smart home products, connect directly to the internet. Choosing devices from well-known, reputable brands helps ensure they include proper security protections and receive regular software updates.

Low-cost or unauthorized devices, especially those advertised online as "fully loaded," "unlocked," or "jailbroken," may not include the same safeguards. In some cases, these devices can run modified or outdated software that makes them more vulnerable once connected to a home network. Unsecured devices can sometimes be taken over and used as "bots" or internet proxies, disguising malicious activity as normal residential internet traffic. This can in turn contribute to slower internet performance, unexplained data usage, service disruptions tied to denial-of-service activity, or attempts to access personal information or misuse an internet connection for criminal activity.

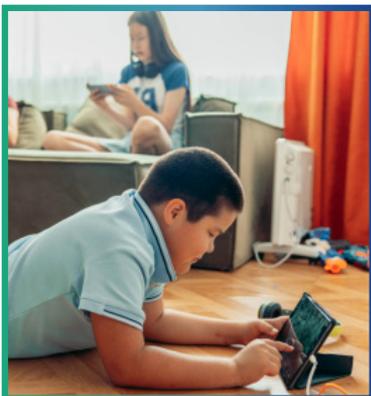
### What We Recommend:

- Choose devices from established manufacturers that provide regular security updates.
- Streaming devices such as Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and smart TVs from major brands are generally considered low risk when kept up to date.
- Be cautious of low-priced, modified, or "jailbroken" devices sold through unofficial sellers.
- Disconnect devices you no longer use or don't recognize from your accounts.

Making smart purchasing decisions is one of the easiest ways to help protect your home network and maintain reliable internet service. For most customers using mainstream devices and keeping them updated, no action is needed.



## Maximize Your FOCUS Broadband Connection



Getting optimal performance from your FOCUS Broadband internet can be as simple as a few small adjustments at home:

- ✓ **Update Your Devices** - Outdated software can slow things down. Regular updates help improve speed and reliability.
- ✓ **Boost your Wi-Fi** - Larger homes with many devices can lead to weak spots. Premium Wi-Fi helps deliver strong, consistent coverage throughout your entire home.
- ✓ **Manage Your Network** - Use the Plume Home app to prioritize bandwidth for important activities like video calls, gaming, or streaming, so the devices that matter most get the best performance.

Need help? We're here for you! Visit [focusbroadband.com](http://focusbroadband.com) or call us at 888-367-2862.

# Grant Supports STEM Innovation at Town Creek Elementary

A FOCUS Broadband Smart Connections Grant is helping students at Town Creek Elementary explore innovation in a hands-on way through the addition of a 3D printer and colorful filament materials.

The Makerspace Magic program gives fourth and fifth graders the chance to dive into the world of 3D printing and transform their digital designs into real-world creations. The experience sparks creativity, builds confidence, and introduces important STEM skills.

"Seeing some of the kids come in and not knowing how a lot of these things work, and then them leaving with that knowledge, has sparked a curiosity in them," shared Brittany Lewis, a Town Creek teacher. "I think it's going to help with a lot of technology jobs in the future." Watch the full Community Connection on our Facebook Page!



**Stay tuned!** Our 2026 Community Connections Grant recipients will be announced this spring, and the 2026 Smart Connections Grant recipients will be revealed in the fall.

MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT JUST GOT EASIER WITH

# MY ACCOUNT

VIEW STATEMENTS, PAY & MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT.  
ALL FROM ONE PLACE.

Scan for a Quick Walkthrough

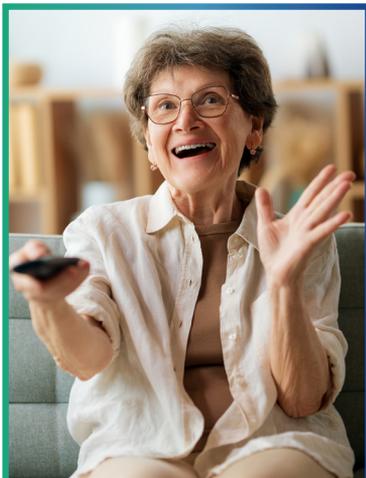


FOCUSBROADBAND.COM/SUPPORT

## How to Stream TV for Free

Did you know there are streaming options that let you watch TV and movies for free? That's right, streaming doesn't always have to come with a subscription fee. Some services offer live channels and thousands of on-demand shows and movies, all supported by ads. From live news and sports to movies and classic TV shows, these platforms make it easy to enjoy a full lineup of entertainment.

### Here are some popular options to try:



- **Free streaming apps** like Pluto TV, Tubi, Amazon Freevee, Fandango at Home, and The Roku Channel offer movies, shows, and live channels. These apps work on smart TVs, streaming devices, phones, tablets, and web browsers with no subscription or credit card required.
  - **Built-in smart TV channels** are also available once your TV is connected to Wi-Fi. Services like Samsung TV Plus, LG Channels, and Vizio WatchFree+ provide live news, sports, movies, and more.
  - **Watch local stations for free** using an HD antenna. This gives you channels like ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS, local news, live sports, and primetime shows.
  - **Network websites and apps** often offer free episodes, clips, and news programming, allowing you to view some content before you buy.
- All you need is a reliable internet connection to start streaming great entertainment - completely free. Learn more at [focusbroadband.com/streaming](https://focusbroadband.com/streaming).