



LEAGUE OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS: STATEMENT ON DIGITAL EQUITY

CONNECT KIDS NOW!

In a day and age when logging into the internet is as ubiquitous as turning on the electricity, why are up to 30 percent of our students in the dark?

In mid-March, as thousands of school districts across the country began to close their physical doors and transition to emergency digital learning, 15 million students were suddenly adrift without devices and access to the internet—and families were face-to-face, yet again, with the stark inequalities in education.

Digital learning is a reality for K-12 districts today and beyond. Technology devices and internet access are essential. Student access to high-quality online learning—to view educational videos, work on learning activities, engage with teachers and connect with peers—is a must-have.

It is simply unacceptable for low-income students to not have devices and internet access.

As members of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, we have been implementers of and advocates for equitable access to technologies to close the Digital Learning Gap since our inception in 2011.

We are well-versed in the technology systems, structures, and supports that are required to ensure ALL children—particularly our most vulnerable—are technically equipped to navigate, succeed, and thrive in an increasingly digital world. Yet, even our districts that serve high-poverty populations struggle with providing access to 100 percent of their students. It should not be the responsibility of school districts to ensure families are equipped at home.

As a collective, we are advocating for:

- Students and families to have home internet access as a fundamental right
- Special fund to support districts to provide a learning device for every student
- E-Rate to be expanded to include home internet access
- Special fund to coach teachers on effective, engaging, and authentic digital learning experiences, and to coach families on device management and continuity of learning
- A national movement to advocate for policies and legislative actions to ensure the sustainability of access throughout a child's K-12 learning experience

We cannot stand by and watch our underserved populations continue to bear the burden of neglect.

CONNECT KIDS NOW!

We, the superintendents from the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, sign our names to this statement calling for universal access to the internet and technology for every student.

Chris Gdowski
Adams 12 Five Star Schools, CO

David Vannasdall
Arcadia Unified School District, CA

Thomas Ralston
Avonworth School District, PA

Randy Lutz
Baldwin-Whitehall School District, PA

Melanie Gehrens
Bristol Township School District, PA

Eric Tucker
Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School, NY

David Miyashiro
Cajon Valley Union School District, CA

Richard Sheehan
Covina-Valley Unified School District, CA

Kristine A. Gilmore
D.C. Everest Area School District, WI

Mary Grow
East Irondequoit Central School District, NY

Ann Linson
East Noble School Corporation, IN

Juan Cabrera
El Paso Independent School District, TX

Melissa Moore
El Segundo Unified School District, CA

Todd Keruskin
Elizabeth Forward School District, PA

Karen Gaborik
Fairbanks North Star Borough
School District, AK

Mary Catherine Reljac
Fox Chapel Area School District, PA

Charles B. Sampson
Freehold Regional High School District, NJ

Robert Pletka
Fullerton School District, CA

Colleen Pacatte
Gurnee School District 56, IL

Michael Loughhead
Hampton Township School District, PA

Adam Fried
Harrington Park School District, NJ

Sandy C. Strayer
Henry County Public Schools, VA

Susan Enfield
Highline Public Schools, WA

Damian LaCroix
Howard-Suamico School District , WI

Scott Rowe
Huntley Community School District 158, IL

Karen Sullivan
Indian Prairie School District, IL

Stephen Murley
Iowa City Community School District, IA

Rick Robins
Juab School District, UT

Patricia Deklotz
Kettle Moraine School District, WI

Jeff Hauswald
Kokomo School Corporation, IN

Jane Stavem
Lake Washington School District , WA

Matt Miller
Lakota Local Schools, OH

Gregory Little
Lexington County School District One, SC

Jeremy Tucker
Liberty 53 Public Schools, MO

Eric Williams
Loudoun County Public Schools, VA

Gudiel R. Crosthwaite
Lynwood Unified School District, CA

Donald Bavis
Marion Central School District, NY

Erik Burmeister
Menlo Park City School District, CA

William Porter
Mentor Public Schools, OH

Mark D. Benigni
Meriden Public Schools, CT

Marlon J. Styles Jr.
Middletown City School District, OH

Michael Nagler
Mineola Union Free School District, NY

Chris Stone
Montour School District, PA

Mackey Pendergrast
Morris School District, NJ

Barbara Nemko
Napa County Schools, CA

Lydia Dobyns
New Tech Network, CA

Celine Azoulay-Lewin
New York City Department of
Education, izeone, NY

Tim Bobrowski
Owsley County Schools, KY

Michelle Rodriguez
Pajaro Valley Unified School District, CA

P. Erik Gundersen
Pascack Valley Regional High
School District, NJ

Mike Hayes
Piedmont City School District, AL

Guadalupe Guerrero
Portland Public Schools, OR

Marian Kim Phelps
Poway Unified School District, CA

Tom Burton
Princeton City Schools, OH

Melvin Brown
Reynoldsburg City Schools, OH

Baron Davis
Richland School District Two, SC

Jennifer Kelsall
Ridgewood High School District 234, IL

Bill Cook
Rock Hill Public Schools, SC

Lynn Moody
Rowan-Salisbury Schools, NC

Walt Griffin
Seminole County Public Schools, FL

Mary Wegner
Sitka School District, AK

José Espinoza
Socorro Independent School District, TX

Katie McNamara
South Bay Union School District, CA

Ken Lockette
South Fayette Township School District, PA

Kristine Orr
South Glens Falls School District, NY

Russell Booker
Spartanburg School District Seven, SC

John Jungmann
Springfield Public Schools, MO

Steve Holmes
Sunnyside Unified School District, AZ

Suzanne Lacey
Talladega County Schools, AL

Ryan Thomas
Uinta County School District #1, WY

Joel Coleman
Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, UT

Steven Webb
Vancouver Public Schools, WA

Cathy Q Moore
Wake County Public School System, NC

Mike Brophy
West Valley School District #208, WA

Jeffrey Feifer
Wyckoff Township Public Schools, NJ

Carl Easley
Wynne Public Schools, AR