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 Unified 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 Loughead  
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 Davis  
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, iZone, 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 O 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