
Education Perspective on Broadband Affordability

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Equity of Access in MN Schools

- 80% of MN schools have the fiber connections needed to meet bandwidth targets. (<http://www.compareandconnectk12.org/>)
- Most, if not all, MN schools have ACCESS to the bandwidth that they need to meet their current educational needs. (<http://metn.k12.mn.us>)
- Cost, however, prevents some districts from purchasing the bandwidth they need.
- Access for students outside the school building IS an issue.

Inequity of Broadband Cost for MN Schools

- Anoka-Hennepin (37,667 students) - Cost per Mb of Internet = \$0.73
 - \$7,252/mo for 10Gbps (10,000Mbps)
 - \$2.31 per student / per year (0.04% of General Ed Formula Aid)
- Braham (839 students) - Cost per Mb of Internet = \$11.00
 - \$1,130/mo for 100Mbps
 - \$16.16 per student / per year (0.2% of General Ed Formula Aid)
- Herman-Norcross (92 students) - Cost per Mb of Internet = \$58.00
 - \$2,610/mo for 45Mbps
 - \$340.43 per student / per year (5.5% of General Ed Formula Aid)

Source: Education Superhighway (<http://www.compareandconnectk12.org/>)

Effects on Educational Opportunities

- Digital Curriculum and Resources
- Distance Learning Opportunities
- Standardized Testing
- Cloud Resources
- 21st Century Learning



Current Funding

- Federal E-rate program currently pays a portion of access costs
 - Based on NSLP participation
- State TEA program currently pays a portion of remaining costs
 - Capped at \$3.75 million since 2010
 - Currently pays about 40% of remaining costs after E-rate for Internet Access and backbone (usually fiber) networks
- Internet Broadband Expansion for Students Grant Program
 - One year - \$500,000 program to help schools start home Internet and/or broadband programs.

Opportunity to Balance Inequities

- Continue to support the E-rate program
- Fully fund TEA (\$7 million increase from \$3.75M to \$10.75M)
- Support increased competition among providers (or incentives)
- Support economies of scale
- Support Border to Border grant program and other rural broadband initiatives

The Future

- 74% of MN Schools meet the 2014 SETDA/FCC goals. (100kbps per student)
- 15% of MN Schools meet the 2018 goals. (1Mbps per student)
- Cost of Internet access is projected to increase 15% to 20% in next five years. (factoring increased usage and somewhat decreasing per Mb cost)
- Smaller, rural districts will continue to see the greatest inequities if nothing is done.

Thank You! -- For More Information

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- Education Superhighway
 - http://www.compareandconnectk12.org/2015/MN?utm_source=marquee&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=cck12-beta
- MN Educational Technology Networks (METN)
 - <http://www.metn.k12.mn.us/>