



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: Nebraska School Leaders (Superintendents and Technology Coordinators)
FROM: Nebraska Department of Education
DATE: October 1, 2020
RE: Digital Equity Data Collection – Resources & Timeline

The NDE co-hosted a webinar with our non-profit partner EducationSuperHighway to launch Digital Equity Outreach Month on September 17, 2020. We shared guidance, tools, and resources to support Nebraska schools with collecting high-quality data sets about home Internet and device access. If you missed it, you can access the PowerPoint slides and recording on our [Launch Nebraska website](#).

This critical [Digital Equity Data](#) will enable education leaders to:

- Understand the impact that home digital access has on learning outcomes
- Target available resources to students in need of access
- Determine the most effective connectivity solutions
- Assess options for state and federal funding to close the digital access (homework) gap
- Meet emerging Federal CARES Act reporting requirements

NDE is urging districts to collect this Digital Equity Data during the fall and share with NDE through your Student Information System (SIS) and ADVISER – **ideally by November 15, 2020 as that is when NDE will conduct an initial review of submitted data, which will be used to prioritize ~\$3.2M GEER funding resources for Home Internet support.** More information to follow.

Also, a catalog of Internet services and pricing is also expected to be available in November, as a result of the Request for Information (RFI) that NDE is putting out to the Internet Service Provider (ISP) community serving Nebraska. To identify which services can connect students and teachers who lack access, districts can upload their Digital Equity Data into EducationSuperHighway's [free mapping tool](#), which will enable you to see where the need is and overlay available service options.

Finally, the reporting timeline will enable NDE to meet the USDE proposed CARES Act Year 1 reporting due date on January 29, 2021 that includes the Digital Equity Data. Having this critical data could also help NDE advocate for more funding when the legislative session starts in January and inform connectivity solutions when the Rural Broadband Task Force meets in February.

If you have questions, please contact Dean Folkers at Dean.Folkers@Nebraska.gov.