

Call to action



Need has never been greater.
We rely on high-speed internet for education, workforce development, learning opportunities, and health and wellness.



Money is available.
There are numerous funding paths that Michigan can tap into today. Resources are available to fund this critical need.



Technology is not a limitation.
There is no shortage of public/private assets that can be leveraged to provide access to almost every Michigan student.



We're just missing you.
We need your help to make it a reality. We need your support to influence, advocate and execute the plan.



Interested in learning more?
Scan the QR code to see the full report.



Bridging Michigan's Digital Divide

Michigan has a digital divide impacting:
Education
Health and wellness
Work

Learn how we get started...



Understanding the digital divide

27% of Michigan students did not have sufficient internet access at home to support some form of virtual learning.

These students are facing one or both distinct challenges:

A geographic limitation in accessibility...



A financial limitation of affordability.

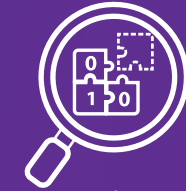


A vision for digital equity

Ensure all Michigan students have affordable and secure access to at least 100/10 Mbps broadband by 2026 through:



Improving coordination
between utilities, local governments, and other entities to leverage Michigan's public/private assets.



Enhance data
both in accuracy and completeness, to identify students lacking access.



Removing barriers
to enable, encourage, and expedite the use of public/private assets while ensuring affordability for all.



Funding solutions
for the various options that are available from wireless to building or leveraging fiber.

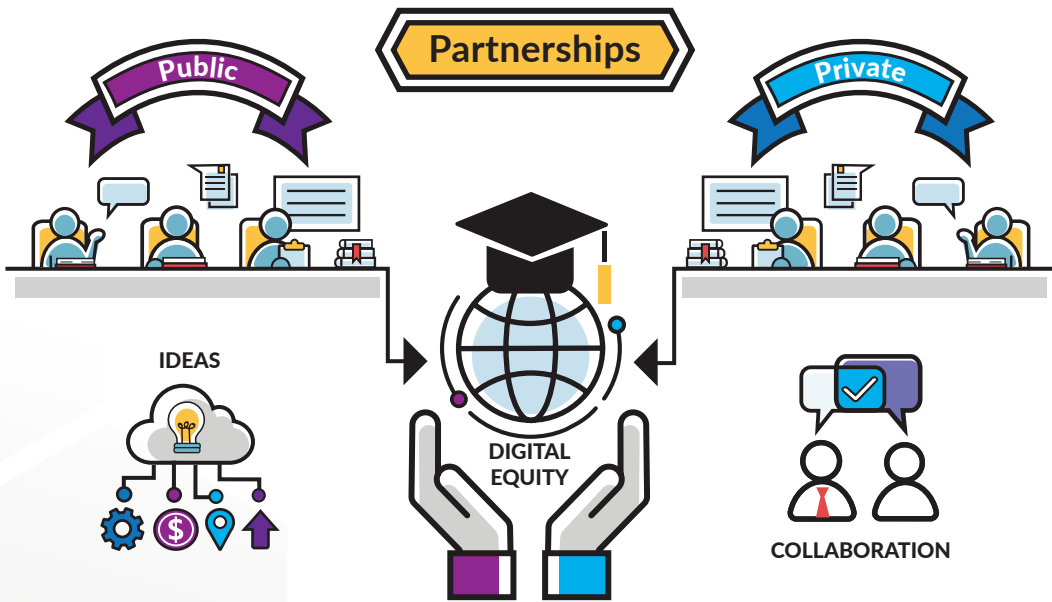
We can do more to improve accessibility & affordability.



Improve Coordination

It's not that we're not working, it's that we need to be working better together.

There are many efforts underway, but we need to do more to foster collaboration in public/private partnerships to match broadband service solutions with assets which can support them.



Enhance Data

Data should drive decision-making. We don't have adequate data.

The right solution can only be determined if we know exactly where students are that have inadequate broadband, have a comprehensive inventory of assets and an understanding of existing broadband efforts that can be leveraged.



A real world broadband measurement at the household level is key to fully understanding the challenge (*this does not exist*).



There are many great efforts and assets across the state. Knowing who, what, where and when is the problem.

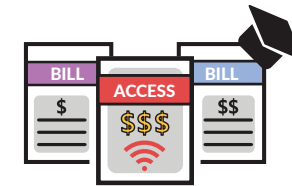


Remove Barriers

The solutions are only viable if they are affordable and impediments are removed.

Approximately **50%**

of K12 public school students are economically disadvantaged. As a result, affordability of access is a roadblock, even in areas where broadband is available.



Current legislation that restricts governmental entities from receiving broadband grant funding is an impediment for broadband solutions.



Existing broadband infrastructure is largely within densely populated communities resulting in limited-to-no rural connectivity options.



Programs designed to help schools and libraries with affordable broadband preclude applications from providing students with broadband access from home for the purposes of remote learning.



The FCC's current definition of broadband does not adequately address the current needs of students and households.



Funding Solutions

Significant funding is available through federal, state and educational initiatives.

There are many solution paths that leverage technology & partnerships to address accessibility and affordability. Maximizing existing investments while simultaneously utilizing the multitude of federal, state and educational funding that are available help create a path forward.

