

Homework Gap Day of Action Engagement Toolkit

Please join NSBA and numerous education advocates on Tuesday, July 21, for a Homework Gap Day of Action on social media. We hope you find the following information, sample posts, and images helpful.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a long-documented and persistent inequity affecting students that lack adequate broadband internet access. This digital divide, commonly known as the homework gap, impacts millions of students. Our nation's most vulnerable students including those with disabilities bear the greatest burden.

With the current crisis dramatically shifting our children's education to remote and online learning, it has never been more important to address this inequity.

NSBA is one of the leading partners in a national coalition, a group of more than 50 education and civil rights organizations advocating to gain quality broadband access for the more than 16 million students who currently lack that access.

SAMPLE TWEETS

The #HomeworkGap has become the learning gap under COVID-19. The federal government must support funding the @FCC's E-Rate program so that all students have access to education.

When 35% of Native American students, 30% of Black students, and 26% of Latinx students do not have adequate Internet access, connectivity becomes an equity issue. We must close the #HomeworkGap by urging Congress to support the Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020.

The future belongs to the connected, but more than 16 million students do not have access to technology. S. 3690/H.R. 6563 would allocate \$4 billion in emergency funding to support Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and other telecommunications to help ease this burden.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

We're joining education and civil rights organizations across the nation to support the Homework Gap Day of Action. More than 16 million students and 400,000 educators have been left unconnected during the coronavirus pandemic. The FCC's E-Rate program is uniquely positioned to support schools and libraries, but it needs additional emergency funding from the federal government for this special need.

Schools are preparing for the fall semester, but the 16 million students who lack Internet access at home will be left behind if learning goes remote. The Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020 (S. 3690/H.R. 6563) recognizes that the most efficient and equitable way to close the #HomeworkGap is by funding the FCC's E-Rate program.

SOCIAL IMAGES



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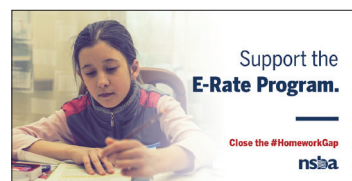
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TALKING POINTS AND STATISTICS

- More than 16 million students do not have access to the technology they need to learn from home.
- Up to 400,000 educators don't have adequate Internet connectivity to teach from home.¹
- 37% of rural students and 21% of urban students lack home Internet access.
- 35% of Native American students, 30% of Black students, and 26% of Latinx students have inadequate Internet access at home compared to only 18% of white students.
- Education is the great equalizer and shouldn't be limited by internet access.
- The E-Rate program has committed more than \$50 billion in support to schools and libraries since its founding in 1998. It's a trusted and reliable program that will ensure equitable distribution in emergency funding.
- The E-Rate program has provided emergency funding to schools and libraries during natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Katrina.
- This fall, whether classes meet in person, online, or both, too many students don't have internet access at home and that needs to change.
- Allocating \$4 billion for the E-rate program will help close the homework gap for the school year.

¹ See Common Sense Media's report "Closing the K-12 Digital Divide in the Age of Distance Learning."

