

Mississippi Department of
Education
Digital Equity Commitment

Digital Equity Now

Supporting under connected students, families and teachers.

Mississippi has nearly **471,000** public school students, of which **353,621 (75%)** are **Economically Disadvantaged**.

While we understand that we cannot solve all the problems the most vulnerable members of our society face, we are taking strides to help lighten their load by making connectivity a bit easier and more affordable.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we've committed to investing in **digital equity initiatives** across the country to help students stay connected during these difficult times.

Equal access to online learning.

The challenge

Many families in the U.S. don't have high-speed internet at home. This digital divide leaves many students without access to digital textbooks and other materials off-campus, often causing them to fall behind their peers with online access.

The facts

- 124,000 school closures
- 55.1 million students impacted
- 18 million students lack home internet access
- 29 million students NSLP

Teachers are assigning student work online, and more than a third are using digital tools to teach live classes.

Commitment to State of Mississippi Students

- **What is the EmpowerED commitment?**
 - Commitment to provide strategic funding to support bridging the digital divide in partnership with school districts.
 - Commitment to provide reduced cost hotspots and mobile device options for students.
- **Who is the target audience?**
 - Public K-12 School Districts (Includes Charter Schools)
 - 80% access to T-Mobile's 4G LTE Network
 - Options for all student populations



EmpowerED for The State of Mississippi will provide:

- 24-Month Digital Equity Program
- Unlimited 4G/LTE High Speed Internet Access
- \$200 toward hardware and/or connectivity for each student
- Content Filtering funding to help keep students safe while learning online.
- Digital Equity Program Planning
- Implementation Funding
- Deployment Support



EmpowerED impact to date:

With over 124,000 pandemic related school closures, T-Mobile's EmpowerED 2.0 COVID response program has helped connect more than **1.5 Million students** across nearly **2,900 school districts** nationwide.

EmpowerED has provided critical connectivity to both large and small education agencies across the country including **New York City, the State of California, Atlanta Public Schools and New Orleans Parish Schools** just to name a few.

We are committed to partnering with school districts, state departments of education, and state and local government agencies to bridge the digital divide with affordable, equitable, and scalable solutions that support distance learning during and after this difficult time.



Partnership with State of Mississippi:

- Coverage**- Only high speed, unlimited 4G LTE data plans are eligible.
- No Hidden Fees**: The cost is \$20 or less per month including the device, taxes, and fees
- Activation charges**: No setup fees, support, or other hidden fees
- End User Support**; Direct customer service method(s) and technical support for schools, families, and students
- Summer Suspend**: Allow for summer suspension of the plans and add additional months to the
- Flexibility**, Ability to ship products directly to schools.
- Custom Instructions**- user guide in multiple languages
- Sustainability**- 12- and 24-months options
- Cat. 4 Device**: Hotspot Franklin T9 / Alcatel 2nd Gen

ARE
YOU
WITH
US?

T-Mobile

THE UN-CARRIER[®]