COLORADO

"A 21st century Colorado must include a Colorado that is committed to getting high-speed connectivity to all of our K-12 schools, which will ensure growth in our economy and educational opportunities for all students across the state."
Governor Hickenlooper

659,541

Total students in 168 school districts meet the minimum recommended bandwidth goal.

Since 2015, an additional 377,222 students in 30 school districts upgraded to the minimum recommended bandwidth.

STATE INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
State leaders made state matching funds available and established a regional purchasing consortia which helped reduce Internet access costs to $0.82 per Mbps through the Kids Link Colorado Initiative.

In 2017, Colorado leveraged $40.3 million of federal E-rate funds.

Progress in Connecting K-12 Students

Closing the K-12 Connectivity Gap

89,058

Students in 10 school districts still need to be connected to the minimum recommended bandwidth goal.

5 service providers can upgrade 76,239 students

State leaders can engage with the service provider community and school district leaders to provide access to digital learning for most Colorado K-12 students by the start of the 2018 school year.

STATE CONNECTIVITY SNAPSHOT 2017
Source: USAC Form 471 2017/2018 E-rate applications, n=166 of 178 school districts, n=1,200 of 1,367 schools, n=645,894 of 748,599 students
About the Metrics

TOTAL STUDENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS CONNECTED
This metric is based on an extrapolation of the percent of students or school districts in the sample that are meeting the minimum connectivity goal to the entire population of students or school districts in the state. Student populations are based on 2014-15 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data and updated based on input from school districts.

ADDITIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS CONNECTED
This metric shows the increase in students or school districts since 2015 that are meeting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) minimum connectivity goal of 100 kbps per student. Using the reported increase of students or school districts from 2016, we added the number of students or school districts who are newly meeting minimum connectivity goals in 2017.

This is an extrapolation of the percentage of students or school districts in the sample that are meeting goals to the entire population of students or districts in the state. Students or districts meeting the goal is calculated by taking the difference in the number of students or school districts meeting minimum connectivity from 2017 and 2016.

Student populations are based on 2014-15 NCES data and updated using input from school districts.

STUDENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT NEED TO BE CONNECTED
This metric shows the total number of students or school districts that are not meeting the FCC minimum connectivity goal. We take the total number of students or school districts in the state and subtract the total students and school districts connected.

FIBER INFRASTRUCTURE
This metric reports on the availability of scalable infrastructure based on the FCC-recommended goal that every school’s broadband scale to 10 Gbps (which currently requires fiber). For schools where the connection type was unknown, we applied assumptions based on extensive research.

WI-FI FUNDS
This metric profiles the extent to which school districts have taken advantage of their Category 2 budgets. The FCC provided every school district with a $153.47 per student (adjusted yearly for inflation) total “Category 2” budget from 2015-2019 to upgrade internal connections in schools. We calculated the total Category 2 budget remaining for 2018-19 after subtracting funds requested in 2015 - 2017. We applied school district E-rate discount rates when available; otherwise, we applied the aggregate state E-rate discount rate.

E-RATE FUNDS LEVERAGED
This metric is based on original funding commitment requests in 2017 from applicants within a state - does not include requests for voice or libraries, however. An original funding commitment request occurs after any changes are made to the application, and is equal to the cost of the service multiplied by the applicant’s discount rate.

STATE MATCHING FUNDS (IF APPLICABLE)
This is the amount of funding made available to school districts by the state to leverage additional federal E-rate dollars for special fiber construction in 2017.

Progress in Connecting K-12 Students
This metric is based on the reported increase of students or school districts since 2016, we added the number of students or school districts who are newly meeting minimum connectivity goals in 2017.

Closing the K-12 Connectivity Gap
This metric shows the total number of students or school districts that are not meeting the FCC minimum connectivity goal. We take the total number of students or school districts in the state and subtract the total students and school districts connected.

SERVICE PROVIDERS CONNECTING STUDENTS
Up to the top 5 primary service providers by state were ranked by the total number of students they serve that still are not meeting the minimum connectivity goal of 100 kbps per student. A service provider is considered primary if they provide at least 50% of a district’s total bandwidth.

BROADBAND COSTS
This metric compares the amount of bandwidth school districts currently receive to the amount they could receive if those same funds were used to buy Internet access at 2015 national benchmark prices.