



Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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Office of Broadband Development
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
180 E 5th Street, Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55001
Attention: Ms. Bree Maki, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Maki,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), I am writing to express strong support for **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)** funding to ensure fast, reliable broadband access in all corners of our state.

Our school district leaders consistently report the significant challenges posed by limited or non-existent internet access in their communities. In many rural and remote areas, broadband is either unavailable, unreliable, or far too slow to meet the basic needs of today's educational environment. As you can imagine, this puts students, families, and educators at a disadvantage.

In today's classrooms, whether in person, hybrid, or remote, **high-speed internet is no longer a luxury; it is an essential tool** for teaching, learning, communication, and operational efficiency. Without it, everyday tasks like submitting assignments, accessing digital textbooks, participating in virtual lessons, or completing college and career applications become very difficult.

We've heard troubling stories of students giving up on homework—not because they lack the ability or motivation, but because the digital tools they're expected to use simply don't work at home. The frustration these students face isn't about the complexity of the assignment—it's about a **lack of access**. And that's something we can and must address.

Minnesota has made a strong commitment to closing academic achievement and opportunity gaps. But those efforts are undercut by digital inequities. If students cannot access the same learning tools as their peers simply because of where they live, we are perpetuating systemic disparities. Expanding broadband access is a **critical step toward ensuring equity and opportunity** for every child in every community.

We urge you to prioritize the deployment of BEAD funding in a way that reaches our most underserved areas and supports our schools in delivering a high-quality education for all.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to supporting Minnesota's students, educators, and communities.

Sincerely,

Deb Henton