



Digital Wish Backgrounder

Mission: A nonprofit on a mission to solve technology shortfalls in education

Tax ID #: 26-1119413

Background: Digital Wish staff work closely with hardware and software manufacturers to provide donated and discounted technology products to K-12 schools and higher education. In 2009 Digital Wish was founded based on a seed grant from Olympus, and subsequently generated two-year growth to \$5.9M – bringing technology to schools and impacting 500,000+ students nationwide. In the same era, the nonprofit was awarded an Obama stimulus grant for \$1.125M dollars to implement 1:1 technology in 30 towns across Vermont which increased student technology proficiency by 30%. Together with Cisco, Digital Wish also distributed 58,000 Flip Camcorders to schools in 20 months. The membership of 68,000 technology educators at www.digitalwish.org benefits from free resources including a robust [lesson plan library](#), developed through partnerships and grants from Motorola, Dell, Verizon, Microsoft and more. Since COVID-19, Digital Wish has delivered thousands of hotspots to schools. Visit www.digitalwish.org to learn more.

Program: Hotspot Donations and \$10/Month Wireless Access for Educators- With school closures due to COVID-19, educators can request a hotspot donation at Digital Wish, then get Mobile Beacon's *unlimited* high-speed 4G LTE mobile broadband service for only \$10/month. Schools use the hotspots to set up a lending pool that will provide equitable Internet access for students and teachers. [Learn more and get hotspots here.](#)

Other hotspot programs are available, depending on quantities.

Research: *The Education Connectivity Report* is [available here](#). (issued 4/27/20)

Digital Wish, a national nonprofit organization, just completed a study of the education technology shortfalls for frontline educators throughout the United States and asked them to report the current state of school-to-home connectivity across three major areas. The survey revealed:

- **Home Connectivity Shortfalls for Students** - Estimated 10.6 Million students (19%) don't have at-home internet connectivity.
- **Shortfalls in Computing Devices** - Estimated 11.8 Million students (21%) don't have the computers necessary to access digital learning at home.
- **The Need for Hotspots** - Schools need to purchase an estimated 7 Million hotspots for students (12%).

Stories: In addition, we've collected and included many **anecdotal stories** showing rates of truancy, students sharing one laptop among five siblings, attempts to do schoolwork on cell

phones, kids sitting in parking lots in the rain to get Internet, and lack of connectivity in many rural areas. **Please contact:** Heather Chirtea, 802.379.3000, heather@digitalwish.org

Press:

eVermont Project - 30+ Articles: <https://bit.ly/3luioQn>

WVTK Radio Interview: https://www.digitalwish.com/11-9-11_WVTK.mp3

Dell Grants: <https://bit.ly/2QzkUGM>

Flip Camcorder: <https://thejournal.com/articles/2010/03/01/flippin-out.aspx>

Education Connectivity Report: <https://prn.to/2xnxi75>

Mobile Beacon: <https://www.mobilebeacon.org/digital-wish/>

<https://www.pbdd.org/low-cost-access-options/>