Operation Connectivity Taskforce LEA Stakeholder Survey

Why am I receiving this survey?

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, local education agencies (LEAs) across Texas have transitioned from providing education in the classroom to digital instruction. While most schools are now connected to fiber, children who live in homes that lack high speed internet or home laptops are experiencing interruption to their learning. The ability to connect and communicate online is essential. "Operation Connectivity" recently launched in Dallas to address this challenge for Dallas Independent School District (DISD) students; in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the Texas Education Agency (TEA)—among others—this initiative now aims to tackle the lack of connectivity hundreds of thousands of students are facing statewide.

The initiative stated above created this task force which will gather critical information to determine how many children and in what areas of the state they do not have high-speed internet access and/or home devices, document best practices, identify and secure technology solutions for broadband and devices, develop actionable playbooks for districts across the state, identify funding needs and help secure resources, demonstrate "lighthouse" examples, including the DISD project, and push for federal and state-level policies that connect more students learning at home to available technology resources.

You are receiving this survey for one or more of the following reasons:

- You were identified as the Chief Technology Officer of a Texas Local Education Agency (LEA)
- You were identified as the Superintendent of an LEA
    - **Please only submit one survey per LEA**

Why should I participate?

This survey is designed to collect information on the number of students who do not have internet access and/or home devices and the areas of the state in which they live.

Who can I contact for questions or support in completing the survey?

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, or your rights as a participant in the survey, please email operationconnectivity@tea.texas.gov

By clicking on the Next button below and taking the survey, you consent to let the evaluation team use your responses and comments in reports prepared for TEA.

Statement of Consent

This survey is voluntary. If you agree to participate in the survey, click on the link below.

General Demographic Questions

Question 1: Please select your region and district from the list below.

- ESC Region
  - o Drop down
- District Name and Number
  - o Drop down

Question 2: Please select the community type that best fits your LEA. *(Link to demographic definition)*

- Major Urban
- Major suburban
- Other central city
- Other central city suburban
- Independent town
- Non-metropolitan: fast growing
- Non-metropolitan: stable
- Rural
- Charter school district

Question 3: To the best of your knowledge, how many students in your LEA do not have access to broadband internet at home?
   a. Free text (enter number)

Question 4: What method(s) have you used to assess student needs regarding broadband internet? (Check all that apply):

   a. We have not tried to measure this
   b. Technology assessment survey as part of our regular operations (e.g., registration)
   c. Web-based survey sent to families (e.g., Google form)
   d. Direct outreach to families via calling
   e. Direct outreach to families via texting
   f. Other (please describe): _____

Question 5: To the best of your knowledge, how many students in your LEA do not have access to *any* adequate learning devices (desktop, laptop, or tablet) at home?
   a. Free text (enter number)

Question 6: To the best of your knowledge, how many students in your LEA do not have access to *their* own (i.e., not shared with others in the household for schoolwork) adequate learning device (desktop, laptop, or tablet) at home?

a. Free text (enter number)

Question 7: What method(s) have you used to assess student needs regarding learning devices? (Check all that apply):

a. We have not tried to measure this
b. Technology assessment survey as part of our regular operations (e.g., registration)
c. Web-based survey sent to families (e.g., Google form)
d. Direct outreach to families via calling
e. Direct outreach to families via texting
f. Other (please describe): _____

Question 8: How confident are you in your LEA's understanding of who the specific students are that do not have internet or device access at home?
a. Not at all confident
b. Slightly confident
c. Moderately confident
d. Extremely confident

Question 9: What connectivity solutions or initiatives have you put in place to support students without broadband internet access? (Check all that apply):
a. None currently
b. Individual hotspots
c. Super-hotspots serving multiple students/households (e.g., bus WiFi)
d. Sponsored low-cost residential broadband service paid for by the district (e.g., Comcast Internet Essentials)
e. Sponsored mobile service/data plans paid for by the district
f. Guidance to families on applying for low-cost internet programs
g. Promote city/public WiFi
h. Other (please describe): _____

Question 10 How many of your students currently benefit from this broadband solution / initiative(s)?
a. Free text (enter number)

Question 11: What connectivity solutions or initiatives have you put in place to support students without adequate learning devices? (Check all that apply):
a. None currently
b. Sponsored laptop loaners
c. Sponsored tablet loaners
d. Subsidized laptops
e. Subsidized tablets
f. Other (please describe): _____

Question 12: How many of your students currently benefit from this device solution / initiative(s)?
- a. Free text (enter number)

Question 13: What funding sources has your LEA leveraged to support connectivity solutions or initiatives? (Check all that apply):
- a. Repurposed existing district funding
- b. Donations (in kind or monetary)
- c. Partnered with local businesses and/or non-profits
- d. Issued bonds
- e. Other (please describe): _____

Closing Question:

Question 14: Is there any other feedback you would like to provide on Operation Connectivity? This might include any initial thinking on potential solutions for students, or what you have seen work elsewhere.
- a. Free text (enter response)