

Creating Equitable Opportunities for ALL Learners

DIGITAL EQUITY STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Digital technologies have opened up new learning opportunities for students, providing them with access to resources, experts, communities, and creative possibilities. However, the promise of anywhere, anytime learning requires two critical conditions: that we ensure equitable access to devices and high-speed Internet both inside and outside of school for ALL students as well as their families and guardians; and that students have equitable access to learning experiences that include creative, transformative uses of technology.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX to achieve digital equity

Create a Common Vision

Too often, conversations about digital equity center around hardware and infrastructure. While this is a critical component, school system leaders also need to be able to communicate a shared understanding around the possibilities for student learning. A clearly defined vision for how devices and expanded broadband access intends to augment and expand students' learning opportunities will help school system leadership teams to gain buy-in and support from stakeholders including teachers, families, students, local officials, and the broader community.

Convening Your Community for Action

Libraries, community centers, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations can make great partners for school leaders in the drive to improve digital equity. Banding together with community partners can expand access to broadband as well as devices and serve families who are under-connected. Beyond access, these organizations can also help to build critical digital literacy skills with families and guardians.

Get Creative About Wi-Fi & Device Deployment

Whether through creating your own wireless network, providing wireless hotspots to students, or extending school hours, think about how to ensure that students might have more equitable access to devices and then Internet. Consider mapping out locations where students might access free Wi-Fi in your community, installing Wi-Fi on school buses to increase time for students to do homework while in transit, and partnering with local libraries or community centers for students to check out devices and mobile hotspots.

Everyone Needs to be a Digital Learner

Digital equity requires more than a device and a fast connection as students need the opportunity to develop as expert learners. Beyond providing opportunities for teachers to engage in professional learning, families and guardians also need additional support. Consider partnering with libraries, nonprofits, or community centers to provide training on how to navigate the Internet, use software, model appropriate use, and connect with their child's school.

Learn How Others Are Closing the Homework Gap

See examples and get underway with CoSN's free, [Digital Equity Action Toolkit](#).
