



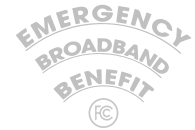
Bridging the Broadband Gap this Summer

The New Mexico Public Education Department launched New Mexico Student Connect to help students and teachers who currently lack high-speed broadband internet service or devices get access to the internet. Our goal is to narrow the digital divide in New Mexico. Through collaboration between NM Student Connect and school districts, students and teachers will have the opportunity to connect to online learning and homework resources via high-speed internet connections in their home and over devices such as laptops or tablets.

Across the country, many students who are able to connect to the internet at school are unable to get online at home. This “Homework Gap” means that learning stops when students leave campus. The FCC is currently offering two programs that you and your students can take advantage of this summer to bridge this gap. And NM Student Connect is here to help. Below are details on the programs and what you can do.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

The EBB provides a temporary discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households, and up to \$75 per month for eligible households located on Tribal lands. The EBB is limited to one discounted monthly service plan per household and will continue until funds are expended or until six months after the declared end to the COVID-19 health emergency. Students in your district may be eligible for this program. We’ve developed a **Toolkit** of resources you can use to educate your students about this program.



Emergency Connectivity Fund

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a companion to the long-standing E-Rate program. ECF is a \$7.17 billion program that will help schools close the Homework Gap by providing funding for devices and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students and school staff in need. More information on the ECF can be found on the FCC’s website at: www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund.



Contact NM Student Connect **1-888-723-4505**

We’re here to help you and your students navigate these options. Representatives available 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday MST. Assistance is available in Spanish and Diné.