



Welcome To Community Conversations

*Today's Topic:
Connectivity in the age of the COVID-19*





STEM Leader Community Conversations

What is STEM@HOME?

A virtual platform of resources that support STEM learning experiences from home and a place to share challenges and successes as they relate to the pandemic and the future of distance learning models.

Why is this dialogue so important?

Community conversations will include the many who are impacted by school closures and virtual learning with the goal to discuss challenges and opportunities in virtual STEM learning as it relates to school/district leaders, teachers, community partners, and family advocates.





Jan Morrison



Marc Siciliano



Veronica Gonzales

Objective for Today

Learn about the **technology** and **connectivity** challenges within different communities and brainstorm next steps for addressing connectivity inequities, including designing an advocacy effort.

During the discussion, we will focus on the following questions:

- Understanding the Magnitude of the Connectivity & Technology Problem
- What Needs to Happen? - Open Discussion
- What Ideas do you have for making it happen? - Open Discussion
- What is needed to make it happen? - Open Discussion

REMINDER: you can leave questions and comments in the dialogue box as we go. We want to hear from as many of you as possible and encourage your input.

12 Million Students Lack Broadband Access

“There are 12 million students in this country who fall into the homework gap and lack the regular broadband access they need to just do nightly schoolwork. From my perspective, this is the cruelest part of the digital divide, and it’s a divide we’re going to have to address, and a gap we’re going to have to fix.”

- Jessica Rosenworcel, FCC commissioner

Education and the Digital Divide -

2019 Data from U.S. Census Bureau & Common Sense Media

- 12% of teachers surveyed reported that a majority of their students do not have home access to the Internet or a computer.
- 4 out of 10 teachers said that many of their students do not have adequate home access to the internet or computer to do homework.
- Teachers in Title I schools (schools with the highest concentrations of poverty) and schools with more than 3/4 of the students being children of color are more likely to say that over 60% of students do not have home access to the internet or a computer.

Education and the Digital Divide -

From Selected STEM Learning Ecosystems

- *"Even if they have technology, the need to share it with other family members; it is the biggest issue facing our students."* - ENGINE of Central PA
- *"We know we have connectivity/speed challenges in our 8 counties with the majority or them being substandard, however, this is only a portion of the problem. Very few districts have one-to-one device initiatives so underprivileged students also don't have access to a computer. We have many high poverty areas where the free and reduced percentages are well over 60%"* - Great Lakes Bay Region STEM Ecosystem."

Education and the Digital Divide -

From Selected STEM Learning Ecosystems

- *"...Representatives from the Framingham and Milford school districts shared that many of their families did not have access to wide-speed internet or computers. Many families are connected to the internet via their phones but they have no computers at home. If they do, they may only have one computer with 2 or 3 kids and parents who need to use it."- MetroWest STEM Education Network (Massachusetts)*
- *"There are many tribal, rural and other underserved communities in Arizona that do not have fast, reliable and affordable Broadband Internet connections." - Arizona*

United States of Broadband

United States of Broadband

Data ?

MLab Median Download

► Sources & Data Notes:

Area ?

County

Time Period ?

Dec 2018

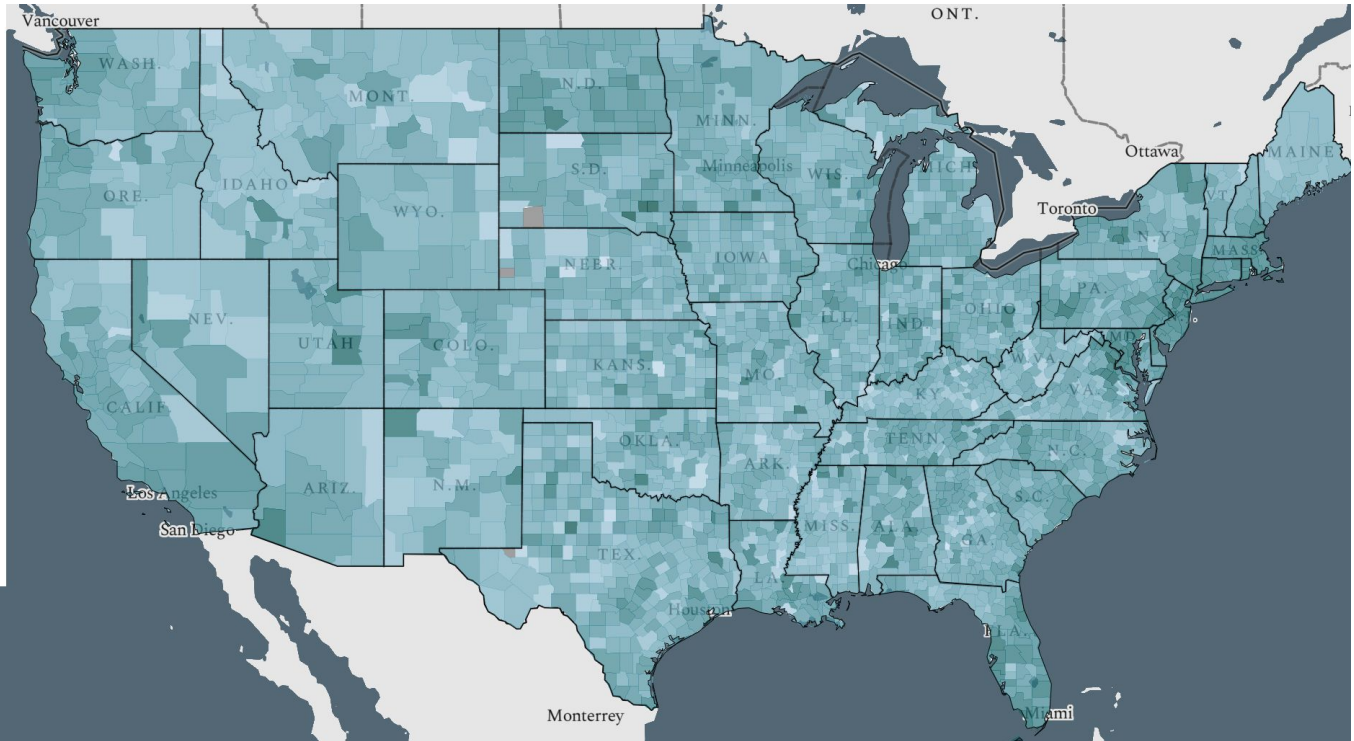
Zoom to State ?

All States

Legend

0.2 4 10 25 50 100

No tests available in time period



Framing the Conversation

TIES' Consultants Veteran educators Julie Hasfjord and LeKeisha Harding, and Community Organizer Daniel Aguirre, discuss the connectivity and technology divide.



Julie Hasfjord



Daniel Aguirre



LeKeisha Harding

Launching an Action-Focused

Harnessing the Power of the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice

What needs to happen?

What ideas do you have for making it happen?

What is needed to make it happen?

NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

Here's what we heard...

Here's what we can do next...and when

AND SOME REMINDERS

Our next webinar in the [STEM@Home](#) series is

Superintendent Conversation About Supporting Learning During Pandemic

Tuesday, March 24 at 1 p.m. ET / 12 p.m. CT / 11 a.m. MT / 10 a.m. PT

Join this FREE and OPEN conversation with 3 superintendents from across the country to learn about how they are supporting their teachers, students and community during the pandemic.



AND SOME REMINDERS

Our Thursday webinar in the [STEM@Home](#) series is

Marshmallow Catapults and Building a Rube Goldberg Machine

Thursday, March 26 at 1 p.m. ET / 12 p.m. CT / 11 a.m. MT / 10 a.m. PT

Join this FREE virtual lab for parents and guardians looking to ensure a fun STEM learning experience for their children grades K-8. You DO NOT have to be an expert. All you need is a little creativity. Our guest presenters will walk you through 2 activities that will get your kids thinking, designing, and building.





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