



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 22, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: District Technology Leaders, State Assessment Coordinators, State Assessment IT Contacts
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services
Deadline: December 7, 2023

K12 Broadband Connectivity

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with the New Jersey Bureau of Public Utilities (BPU) Office of Broadband Connectivity, is participating in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. If accepted into the BEAD program, New Jersey intends to leverage federal funds over the next two years to subsidize fiber deployment to every public school in the state that does not yet have access to a 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) symmetrical connection.

To support this effort, the NJDOE is requiring each public school district, charter school, and renaissance school project to update their school broadband connectivity data by **December 7, 2023**. To access BEAD program funds, New Jersey plans to submit a statewide plan to the NTIA that includes, but is not limited to, broadband access at each individual school facility. Following NTIA review and approval of New Jersey's plan, the BPU intends to open a competitive grant program for broadband providers within the state. Broadband providers will then submit funding applications for eligible locations (e.g., homes, small businesses, schools, libraries) in the areas demonstrating greatest need. Public schools with less than 1 Gbps symmetrical connectivity may be eligible to be included in provider applications. As part of the statewide plan, the BPU will establish an initial list of schools eligible to be connected to increased symmetrical service based on current NJTRAx data.

Key steps/actions

The NJDOE requests that each public school district, charter school, and renaissance school project update the broadband connectivity data in the state technology infrastructure database, the [NJTRAx Technology Readiness Tool](#), by **December 7, 2023**.

Contact information

Questions regarding NJTRAx should be directed to innovation@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group