

What is Connect Ed?



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/06/06/what-connected>

SUMMARY

President Obama is unveiling a bold, new initiative called ConnectED, which will connect 99 percent of America's students to the internet through high-speed broadband and high-speed wireless within 5 years.

Although the United States was once a pioneer in connecting schools to the internet, we're now falling behind while other nations move forward with aggressive investment in digital learning and technology education. In South Korea, for example, all schools have high-speed internet connections, and all teachers are trained in digital learning. Printed textbooks will be phased out by 2016.

The fact is, schools without internet access put our students at a disadvantage.

HOW DOES CONNECTED WORK?

Upgrading connectivity: Aligning Federal Support

After the E-Rate Modernization Order has been approved, an additional \$1B for WIFI connectivity in classrooms and libraries will be made available for FY 2014-15.

The President is calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to modernize and leverage existing programs, and drawing upon the expertise of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to deliver this connectivity.

ConnectED will also provide better broadband access for students in rural areas by expanding successful efforts to connect parts of the country that typically have trouble attracting private investment in broadband infrastructure.

Training teachers

New digital education tools allow for real-time assessment of student learning, provide more immediate feedback to drive professional development, and enable the creation of interactive online lessons. Together, these can empower teachers to understand each student's strengths and weaknesses and design lessons and activities that better meet their individual learning needs.

The ConnectED initiative invests in improving the skills of teachers, ensuring that every educator in America receives support and training in using education technology tools that can improve student learning.

Additionally, ConnectED will lead to new resources for teachers that enable any school, at any time, to open their classrooms to interactive demonstrations, lessons from world-renowned experts, or the opportunity to build learning communities and to collaborate with other educators across the country or world.

Encouraging private sector innovation

Educational devices supported by high-speed networks are the portal to the world of online learning and interactive content, to personalized education software that adapts to students' needs, and to breakthrough advances in assessing understanding and mastery.

These devices give students access to more rigorous and engaging classes, new learning resources, rich visualizations of complex concepts, and instruction in any foreign language. They also give students more opportunities to work at their own speed and receive additional one-on-one help they need to develop their knowledge and skills.



Multiple offers have been made by private technology companies to contribute to the President's initiative. Most offers include discounted products and services.

See the following hyperlink for more details on the companies and offerings:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/k-12/connected#schools>

RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

As the President [announced in February](#), the FCC will invest \$2 billion over the next two years to dramatically expand high-speed Internet connectivity for America's schools and libraries — connecting 20 million more students to next-generation broadband and wireless.

Private-sector companies have also committed more than \$2 billion to deliver cutting-edge technologies to classrooms, including:

- **Adobe**, which will provide more than \$300 million worth of free software to teachers and students, including Photoshop and Premiere Elements for creative projects; Presenter and Captivate to amplify e-Learning; EchoSign for school workflow; and a range of teacher training resources
- **Apple**, which will donate \$100 million in iPads, MacBooks, and other products, along with content and professional development tools to enrich learning in disadvantaged U.S. schools
- **AT&T**, which pledged more than \$100 million to give 50,000 middle and high school students in Title I districts free Internet connectivity for educational devices over their wireless network for three years

- **Autodesk**, which pledged to make their 3D design program "Design the Future" available for free in every secondary school in the U.S. — more than \$250 million in value
 - **Esri**, which will provide \$1 billion worth of free access to ArcGIS Online Organization accounts – the same Geographic Information Systems mapping technology used by government and business – to every K-12 school in America to allow students to map and analyze data
 - **Microsoft**, which will launch a substantial affordability program open to all U.S. public schools by deeply discounting the price of its Windows operating system, which will decrease the price of Windows-based devices
 - **O'Reilly Media**, which is partnering with Safari Books Online to make more than \$100 million in educational content and tools available for free to every school in the U.S.
 - **Prezi**, which will provide \$100 million in Edu Pro licenses for high schools and all educators across America.
 - **Sprint**, which will offer free wireless service for up to 50,000 low-income high school students over the next four years, valued at \$100 million
 - **Verizon**, which announced a multi-year program to support ConnectED through up to \$100 million in cash and in-kind commitments
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Investing in Next-Generation Professional Development

To support teachers as they use new technology to improve learning enabled by ConnectED, the President has asked Congress help school districts and schools provide high-quality professional development and transition to digital learning. The proposed [ConnectEDucators program](#) would enable more school districts to support teachers with tools including instructional coaches, high-quality digital content, blended learning models, and online communication and collaboration.

In addition, [the US Department of Education has released guidance](#) to states, school districts, and schools on ways that existing federal funds can be effectively leveraged immediately to support schools and educators in the transition to digital learning in support of the President's ConnectED Initiative. Specifically, the guidance letter describes which current federal education funding currently available to states and school districts can be used to provide professional development, access to high-quality digital content, and devices for learning.

Please see the linked document from the US Department of Education Office of Educational Technology listing [examples of Leveraging ESEA and IDEA Funds for Digital Teaching and Learning](#).

Additional resources are available on the NYSED Office of Educational Design and Technology website at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/funding/>