

The Every Child Connected Act

The Every Child Connected Act is a bipartisan bill aimed at reducing the digital divide between students with and without internet access, also known as the Homework Gap.

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s most recent data, 14 percent of children ages 3 to 18—approximately 9.4 million total—do not have internet access at home. Students are turning to the internet to connect with teachers and classmates, conduct research, obtain tutoring, and submit homework. It has never been more critical that every student have access to the internet to ensure they do not fall behind.

Community hot spots, Wi-Fi on school buses, and prerecorded lectures are helpful, but they do not address the underlying issue that students should not have to travel miles from their homes and sit in a parking lot to complete their homework.

The Every Child Connected Act would:

- Require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to redefine the term classroom to include distance learning occurring at the home.
- Prioritize households where a child receives free or reduced lunch.
- Assure the quality of a school’s network remains robust while extending broadband services to eligible households.
- Require coordination among state and local municipalities and the U.S. Department of Education to assure E-Rate is utilized for distance learning taking place at the home.