



**OFFICE of  
EDUCATION INNOVATION**

# **Preliminary Needs Assessment Results**

**For the Indianapolis E-Learning Fund Advisory Committee**

**April 2020**

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## Summary

The Indianapolis E-Learning fund launched on April 8, 2020, as a collaborative effort between the Indianapolis Mayor's Office of Education Innovation and local partners from the philanthropic and business communities to support schools that have had to close and quickly implement e-learning and remote learning plans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial investment of more than \$2.6 million is expected to go toward four focus areas, including support for:

- Marion County traditional public, public charter, and innovation network schools to address short-term needs for accessing devices and internet connectivity for students from low-income families and for students who live in communities with unreliable access to the internet and/or limited broadband capacity;
- The development of a county-wide strategy for e-learning that will identify supports needed and address both immediate and long-term needs;
- The development of a county-wide strategy for social-emotional learning needs for students, both while at home and upon their transition back to the school building;
- And the launch of an e-learning lab for all schools in the state. The lab will provide early e-learning adopters a platform for sharing best practices with all schools, as well as professional development opportunities to support teachers and administrators. The lab will also equip students and families with the necessary tools for the successful implementation of remote learning.

An initial needs assessment of Marion County public school districts and charter schools was conducted by OEI in partnership with The Mind Trust to identify device and internet access gaps schools and districts were experiencing. Overall, the biggest barriers to implementing successful e-learning were internet connectivity for students and families and access to devices. Marion County educators who completed the survey reported that more than 25 percent of students did not have access to the high-speed internet necessary to engage with e-learning. Additionally, tens of thousands of students also lacked laptops, tablets, or mobile hotspots that would allow them to learn at home. Many of the most affected students are from low-income backgrounds.

Based on these results, as well as conversations with school and district leaders, technical support experts, local service providers, and feedback from local and national remote learning experts, the Advisory Committee has decided to allocate \$1.5 million from the fund for schools' and districts' short-term device and connectivity needs. The remaining contributions in the fund will be directed toward longer-term investments and resources for schools engaging in e-learning and remote learning statewide.

Funds will be allocated to districts and schools based on the size of their student population and state data showing how many students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. Allocations will be distributed to districts directly. Charter school allocations will be administered by The Mind Trust.

The remaining contributions in the fund will be directed toward longer-term investments and resources for schools engaging in e-learning and remote learning statewide.

## Indianapolis E-Learning Fund Allocations

	Total Students	FRL %	FRL-Adjusted Student Count	Adjusted Total %	Allocation Amount
Beech Grove City Schools	2,939	64.7%	1,901	1.8%	\$ 27,683.33
MSD Decatur Township	6,825	68.8%	4,694	4.6%	\$ 68,356.42
Franklin Township Community Schools	10,305	40.4%	4,160	4.0%	\$ 60,580.04
Indianapolis Public Schools	25,611	66.0%	16,914	16.4%	\$ 246,310.27
MSD Lawrence Township	16,165	64.2%	10,386	10.1%	\$ 151,246.22
Perry Township Schools	16,938	71.3%	12,084	11.7%	\$ 175,973.36
MSD Pike Township	11,274	71.7%	8,083	7.8%	\$ 117,708.76
School Town of Speedway	1,871	62.1%	1,163	1.1%	\$ 16,930.68
MSD Warren Township	11,830	63.1%	7,459	7.2%	\$ 108,621.75
MSD Washington Township	11,157	60.8%	6,785	6.6%	\$ 98,800.92
MSD Wayne Township	16,915	69.6%	11,777	11.4%	\$ 171,502.67
Charter schools	21,152	83.2%	17,599	17.1%	\$ 256,285.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,982</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>103,005</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000.00</b>

Source: [Indiana Department of Education](#). Data retrieved April 22, 2020. Some figures have been rounded.

## Internet Connectivity and Device Needs as Reported by District or Charter School/Network\*

	Total Students	Approx. Students w/o high-speed internet access	% Students w/o high-speed internet access	Laptops needed	Tablets needed	Hotspots needed
Beech Grove City Schools	2,939	200	7%			
MSD Decatur Township	6,825	2,388	35%	450	500	500
Franklin Township Community Schools	10,305	1,000	10%	150		
Indianapolis Public Schools	25,611	10,244	40%	3,000		8,744
MSD Lawrence Township	16,165	1,780	11%		1,650	
Perry Township Schools	16,938	6,700	40%	4,766		500
MSD Pike Township	11,274	2,300	20%	2,717		500
School Town of Speedway	1,871	900	48%	1,809		
MSD Warren Township	11,830	6,960	59%	2,400	1,600	40
MSD Wayne Township	16,915	1,700	10%	4,800		1,700
MSD Washington Township	11,157	367	3%	1,600		
ACE Prep Academy	164	0	0%			
Allegiant Prep Academy	65	20	31%	25		
Andrew J. Brown Academy	687	275	40%	200		

Christel House Schools (South, West, DORS)	1,677	130	8%	165		
Circle City Prep	172	20	12%	45		
Damar Charter Academy	194	2	1%			
Dynamic Minds Academy	113	2	2%	50		
Global Prep Academy	628	120	19%			
Goodwill of Central Indiana (Excel Centers and Indianapolis Metropolitan High School)	2,272	113	5%	81		85
Hope Academy	29	0	0%		10	
Ignite Achievement Academy	417	300	72%	400		
IMSA North	680	300	44%	100		
IMSA West	574	20	3%	100	200	
Indianapolis Classical Schools (Herron and Riverside)	1,298	520	40%	103		
Invent Learning Hub	96	17	18%	68		
Irvington Community Schools	1,033	100	10%			
KIPP Indy Public Schools (KICP, KIUE, KLHS)	1,046	75	7%	400		
Matchbook Learning	612	124	20%	125		
Paramount Schools of Excellence (BR, CH, E)	1,048	100	10%	100		
Phalen Leadership Academies	1,315	1,100	114%	1,155	718	
pilotED	159	20	13%	50		10
Purdue Polytechnic High School (Downtown, North)	426	30	7%	35		
SENSE	607	179	29%	600		
The Neighborhood Charter Network (Enlace, Kindezi)	938	118	13%	100		
Tindley Accelerated Schools (CTAS, TGA, TSA)	1,123	15	1%	350		
United Schools of Indianapolis (AMA, AMMS, VAR)	1,035	100	10%	600		
URBAN ACT Academy	326	200	61%		100	30
Vanguard Collegiate	75	25	33%			
Victory College Prep Academy	928	400	43%	300		
<b>Total**</b>	<b>151,567</b>	<b>38,964</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26,844</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>12,109</b>

Source: Results of survey completed by district superintendents and leaders of K-12 charter schools and adult high schools

\*Educators were asked to report device needs above what the school or district already owns. Numbers are not reflective of total devices used for any school or district. Blank cells indicate a school or district did not report a need in that area.

\*\*Total differs from above because it includes only schools and districts that responded to the survey.

## About the Indianapolis E-Learning Fund

A collaborative of local stakeholders established the Indianapolis E-Learning Fund with an initial investment of more than \$2.6 million to support Indianapolis educators, students, and families during the transition to e-learning in response to the recent COVID-19 public health emergency. Mayor Joe Hogsett's Office of Education Innovation administers the fund, and the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee serves as the fiscal agent. The advisory committee is made up of community and district leaders:

- Miriam Acevedo Davis, President and CEO, La Plaza
- Brandon Brown, CEO, The Mind Trust
- Aleesia Johnson, Superintendent, Indianapolis Public Schools
- Jeffrey A. Johnson Sr., Senior Pastor, Eastern Star Church
- Pat Mapes, Superintendent, Perry Township Schools
- Patrick McAlister, Director, Indianapolis Mayor's Office of Education Innovation (committee chair)
- Dr. Shawn Smith, Superintendent, Lawrence Township

Founding funding partners include the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, the Cummins Foundation, EdChoice, the Emmis Communications, Glick Philanthropies, The Heritage Group, The Indianapolis Foundation, The Indianapolis Foundation Library Fund, The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indiana Charter School Network, the Institute for Quality Education, Lilly Endowment Inc., the Lumina Foundation, The Mind Trust, The OneAmerica Foundation Inc., Salesforce, the Telamon Foundation, and United Way of Central Indiana.

Learn more about the fund and how to contribute at [indy.gov/elearning](https://indy.gov/elearning). Questions may be directed to [oei@indy.gov](mailto:oei@indy.gov).