

Broadband Internet Access for New Mexico Students

Questions and Answers

What funding is available to help my Local Educational Agency (LEA) provide broadband Internet connectivity for students who don't have access at home?

Funds from the CARES Act Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund are being made available to New Mexico LEAs to help pay for Internet access for students who don't have access at home.

How do I find out my LEA's GEER Fund allocation?

You can find your LEA's allocation for GEER funds (code 24305) in a table linked on the PED awards and carryover page here: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/administrative-services/awards-and-carryover/>. The allocation will also appear in your LEA's GEER fund application.

How can my LEA apply for these funds?

The application is available here:

<http://webed.ped.state.nm.us/sites/NCSS/SCAwards/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Who can help me with my LEA's application for GEER funds?

Contact the Student, School and Family Support (SSFS) Bureau staff member assigned to your LEA. A list is available here: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CARES-Title-I-LEA.RfR-assignment-list-09.01.20.pdf>

Can my LEA use these funds to purchase laptops or other devices?

No. The LEA can spend GEER funds only for Internet access for students without access at home. This can include fiber, DSL, cable, fixed wireless, wireless hotspots, and satellite, depending on service available at an individual address. This includes installation costs and monthly recurring costs.

How can I find out which Internet service providers are available where my students live?

The state Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has created the Broadband for Students Portal to help LEAs determine which Internet Service Providers are available in the areas where your students live. The portal is here: <https://Solutions.doit.nm.gov/PED/Broadband4Students>

How do I obtain login credentials to the Broadband for Students Portal?

If you need help logging into the Portal, send an e-mail to this address:

Portal.Broadband4Students@state.nm.us

Am I required to use the providers listed in the portal?

No, you may engage with providers not listed in the portal.

Will more providers be added to the Portal?

Yes. DoIT expects to increase the number of providers in the Portal before the end of October.

Are resources available to help me identify unserved students?

Yes. The New Mexico Broadband (NMBB) Map displays available broadband Internet services by technology in the State of New Mexico. It also allows you to find available Internet service providers for your area of interest. The NMBB Map is here: <https://nmbbmapping.org/mapping/>