

# THE DIGITAL STUDENT

## WHAT THE COST OF CONNECTIVITY COSTS OUR STUDENTS

As we enter 2018, technology in the classroom has been seen as integral to student success. According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Technology infuses classrooms with digital learning tools... [which] supports learning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week [and] builds 21st century skills." These 21st century skills are paramount to student success later in life. **88% of school districts** in the United States employ adequate access to utilize

technology in the classroom. Through government funding and the assistance of many educational groups, **35 million schools** in **70,000 schools** are now able to offer **100/kpbs per student**, which is on par with top schools globally. Internet service providers have also done their part, allowing approximately **3700 schools** to upgrade their bandwidth. **40%** of these schools were able to do so with **no additional cost**.

**But what happens at home?**

The cost of internet access in the United States is drastically **more expensive** than in other parts of the world. **286.94 million users** access the internet in the United States. **18.1%** of the United States has **no home** internet access. Only **53%** of households which make less than **\$30K a year** have broadband access. Currently in the US, **51%** of students come from **low-income families**.

### COST OF INTERNET ACCESS & GLOBAL RANK (least to most expensive)



### AT A GLANCE

The United States ranks **114th** out of **196** countries globally for the cost of internet access. Due to the stranglehold placed on the industry with major service providers, the cost remains approximately **\$66.20 a month** for broadband access. Many households are struggling to pay bills, and students pay the ultimate price. The strides forward in the classrooms have been promising, however more needs to be done to ensure **affordable internet access** in the home.

**286.94 MILLION** internet users in the US  
**35 MILLION** K-12 students in the US  
**12%** of US schools do not have internet access  
**18%** of US homes do not have internet access  
**\$66.20** average cost per month for internet access  
**#114** out of 196 - US rank for cost of access

# REFERENCES

E. M. (2018, January 17). 2016 "State of the States" Report: Dramatic progress in connecting America's K-12 students to high-speed broadband. Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/blog/2016-state-of-the-states-report-governors-and-internet-service-providers-are-driving-dramatic-progress-in-connecting-americas-k-12-students-to-high-speed-broadband/>

Bidwell, A. (n.d.). *Most U.S. Students Live in or Near Poverty*. Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.usnews.com/news/blogs/data-mine/2015/01/16/most-us-students-come-from-low-income-families>

Brown, K. (2016). *Global Internet Report 2016*. Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <https://www.internetsociety.org/globalinternetreport/2016/>

Gordon, K. (n.d.). *Topic: Internet usage worldwide*. Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <https://www.statista.com/topics/1145/internet-usage-worldwide/>

*Internet Users*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <http://www.internetlives-tats.com/internet-users/>

*Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet*. (2018, January 31). Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/>

*New Worldwide Broadband Price League Unveiled*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.cable.co.uk/media-centre/release/new-worldwide-broadband-price-league-unveiled/>

*Number of internet users in selected countries 2017* | Statistic. Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262966/number-of-internet-users-in-selected-countries/>

Stevens, J. (2017, August 18). *Internet Statistics & Facts (Including Mobile) for 2017*. Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <https://hostingfacts.com/internet-facts-stats-2016/>

*U.S. household internet subscription types 2016* | Statistic. Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/185602/broadband-and-dial-up-internet-connection-usage-in-the-us/>

*Use of Technology in Teaching and Learning*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 04, 2018, from <https://www.ed.gov/oii-news/use-technology-teaching-and-learning>

Yi, H. (2015, April 26). *This is how Internet speed and price in the U.S. compares to the rest of the world*. Retrieved February 02, 2018, from <https://www.pbs.org/news-hour/world/internet-u-s-compare-globally-hint-slower-expensive>