

From: Chase Stafford
To: [CA Broadband Council](#)
Cc: Stephanie Hernandez; Ryan Smith
Subject: Public Comment on Broadband Action Plan - Partnership for LA Schools
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 3:04:36 PM
Attachments: CA Broadband Council - Public Comment.pdf

Dear California Broadband Council,

Attached please find our public comment for the California Broadband Council. Please feel free to reach out if we can be of any further assistance moving forward.

Thanks,

Chase Stafford • Director of Policy & Planning • [REDACTED]

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November 20, 2020

Amy Tong, Chair
California Broadband Council
1325 J Street, Suite 1600
Sacramento, CA 95814-2941

RE: CA Broadband Action Plan

Dear Chair Tong,

In the Los Angeles Unified School District, an estimated one-third of students (150,000) have no broadband internet access at home. Gaps are even more profound in historically underserved neighborhoods like Watts, South Los Angeles, Pico/Union, East Los Angeles, South East Los Angeles, Pacoima, and Panorama City, where students with the greatest unmet needs are concentrated. In the midst of the current pandemic, we have heard and [documented the many barriers](#) low-income families and communities of color are experiencing in accessing affordable broadband.

We appreciate that the draft Action Plan grapples with this reality and many of the underlying causes. In addition to the goals already outlined, we would add and underline three recommendations related to low-cost plans that we believe could be acted on immediately and make a tangible difference for families across the state:

1. Streamline eligibility and sign-up processes for low-cost residential broadband by creating a single application and standards for ISP processing and service.
2. Partner with the CDE and LEAs to automate eligibility based on free and reduced-price lunch data.
3. Require internet service providers (ISP) to enumerate the number of households in each neighborhood or zip code currently served with a low-cost plan (protected by non-disclosure agreement).

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. For further questions, please contact Chase Stafford at chase.stafford@partnershipla.org.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Smith", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ryan Smith
Chief External Officer, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools