

# The Every Child Connected Act

Across the country, schools have closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, forcing students of all ages to rely on the internet to complete their education. According to the Department of Education’s most recent data, 14 percent of children ages 3-18—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 from home rather than the classroom. It has never been more critical that every student have access to the internet to ensure they do not fall behind.

Community hot spots, WiFi 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.

Today’s students are learning at home, and at home is where they should have access to all of the tools necessary to succeed.

***The Every Child Connected Act*** will reduce the digital divide between students with and without internet access, also known as the Homework Gap. The bill targets available funding sources from Federal Trade Commission (FTC) data privacy violations to provide vital connectivity to American students.

***The Every Child Connected Act:***

- Requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to redefine the term classroom to include distance learning occurring at the home.
- Redirects funding captured by Section 5 of the FTC act and consent orders from privacy violations at the FTC to the FCC E-Rate program.
- Requires coordination among state and local municipalities and the Department of Education to assure E-Rate is utilized for distance learning taking place at the home.

