Digital Equity Education Roundtables (DEER): Strategies to Navigate Student and Family Barriers to Broadband Adoption

Office of Educational Technology
U.S. Department of Education
DIGITAL EQUITY EDUCATION ROUNDTABLES (DEER)

AN OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:
DIGITAL EQUITY EDUCATION ROUNDTABLES (DEER)

BIL tackles digital equity through $65B investment to expand broadband access.

Broadband access involves three primary components:
- Availability
- Affordability
- Adoption

ADOPTION:
OET is well-positioned to address human-level barriers to that impede broadband access.
OUR APPROACH: DEER STRATEGY

Outcomes & Objectives

- National conversations and convenings to identify adoption barriers/solutions and capture exemplary stories
- Strategic guidance on equitable broadband adoption considerations for state digital equity plans
- Spur community action/commitment aligned to this strategic guidance
GENERAL TAKEAWAYS: BARRIERS AND STRATEGIES

Barriers to Adoption
- Awareness Building
- Program Clarity
- Public Trust
- Foundational Capacity

Promising Strategies
- Targeted Communication
- Streamlined Design
- Community Assets
- Capacity Building

Who Must Be Involved?
- State and local governments (vision and accountability)
- School districts and systems (data and dissemination)
- Private-sector companies (investments and collaboration)
- Philanthropies and community organizations (amplification and scaling)
GENERAL TAKEAWAYS: STRATEGIES IN PRACTICE

- Targeted Communication
  - District-wide survey
- Streamlined Design
  - Automatic eligibility through CEP
- Community Assets
  - Partnership with Communities in Schools
- Capacity Building
  - Training community change agents

Case Study: Clark County School District

How partnerships, coordinated outreach, and extensive family support, enabled Clark County School District (CCSD) to address the digital challenges faced by students during the pandemic.

Image Source: Education Superhighway
YOUR TURN!

DISCUSSION
QUESTION 1: BARRIERS

When it comes to serving migratory students and their families, what are some of the biggest barriers in adopting broadband for learning?
What are some promising strategies for overcoming those barriers? What is the role of strong community partnerships and inter-district/state collaborations?
QUESTION 3: STORIES

Are there examples of success that you have seen when it comes to helping migratory students and families adopt broadband for learning? Who are the innovators in this area?
THANK YOU!

CONTACT ED.TECH@ED.GOV WITH QUESTIONS & ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK.

PLEASE INCLUDE “OET DEER” IN THE SUBJECT LINE.