

Broadband Infrastructure and Distance Learning Bond Act of 2020

California Emergency Homework Access Broadband Fund

Purpose:

To provide immediate access to multi-gigabit broadband services to rural, urban and suburban unserved and underserved communities and households and to provide local educational agencies access to devices necessary for remote access to public school curriculum, homework and school-related internet research.

Funding:

1. \$4-6 billion to provide communities and households access to wired and wireless multi-gigabit broadband access

Eligibility / Application Process:

Application process.

1. Broadband: LEAs work with their cities/counties to identify the neighborhoods that have no or inadequate multi-gigabit broadband access. Jointly apply for funds to contract for installation of services to unserved and underserved neighborhoods.
2. Devices: LEAs apply for funds for devices, including wireless hotspots, tablets, modems, etc. to provide to students for home use and access to distance learning, including online curriculum, homework, research and other school-related services.

Administrative agencies:

To be administered jointly by the CA Department of Education, CA State Board of Education, CA State Treasurer.

Allocation of bond proceeds:

1. \$3-4 billion to fund broadband access infrastructure projects
2. \$400 million to provide funding for 1 million devices (Chromebooks, iPads, etc.). Cost includes purchase, licensing, software, protective covers, teacher professional development costs.
3. \$50 million to provide 500,000 hotspot purchases.
4. \$3.2 million to provide funding for to equip 2,000 public school buses with hotspot capability.
5. \$47 million reserve.