



Digital Equity, Inclusion, and Literacy

June 2020

The “digital divide” is not new – Some background

- Article (from The 74): [An Education System, Divided: How Internet Inequity Persisted Through 4 Presidents and Left Schools Unprepared for the Pandemic](#)
- Article (from Education Week): [The Disparities in Remote Learning Under Coronavirus \(in Charts\)](#)
- Article (from The Brookings Institution): [What the coronavirus reveals about the digital divide between schools and communities](#)
- Article (from Wired): [When School Is Online, the Digital Divide Grows Greater](#)
- Podcast (from Trending in Education): [Digital Inclusion with Angela Siefer and Xandi Wright](#)
- Website: [Pew Broadband Research Initiative](#)
- Website: [The Digital Equity Act of 2019](#)
- Article about California (from EdSource): [More California students are online, but digital divide runs deep with distance learning](#)
- Article about California (from Education Trust-West): [Education Equity in Crisis: The Digital Divide](#)
- SSPI Tony Thurmond announced the formation of the [Closing the Digital Divide Task Force](#) on April 16. View the archived task force recordings on the [CDE Facebook page](#).

Definitions

These definitions are from the [National Digital Inclusion Alliance website](#).

Digital equity

- Digital Equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Equity resources (courtesy of Sudie Whalen, CALPRO/AIR)

- YouTube video (from Education Northwest): [Why Equity Matters in Education](#)
- Article (from Thinking Maps): [Equity in Education: What it Is and Why it Matters](#)
- PDF (from American Institutes for Research): [Educational Equity: Identifying Barriers and Increasing Access](#)
- Website: [Equity Literacy Institute](#)



Digital inclusion

- Digital Inclusion refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). This includes 5 elements: 1) affordable, robust broadband internet service; 2) internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; 3) access to digital literacy training; 4) quality technical support; and 5) applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration. Digital Inclusion must evolve as technology advances. Digital Inclusion requires intentional strategies and investments to reduce and eliminate historical, institutional and structural barriers to access and use technology.

Digital inclusion resources

- Website: [Federal Communications Commission](#)
- Website: [National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#)
- Website: [Community Network Map](#) from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- Website: [BroadbandNow](#)
- Website: [ctc technology and energy](#) (somewhat technical)
- Website: CPUC [Communications Division](#) (Universal Service Programs for funding)
- Website: CDT [Broadband and Digital Literacy Office](#) and [California Broadband Council](#)
- Website: [CENIC](#)
- Website: [California Emerging Technology Fund](#) and [Internet for All Now](#)
- Website: [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#) – look under Practitioner Support for the three Guidebooks (Digital Inclusion Startup Manual, Digital Inclusion Coalition Guidebook, and Discount Internet Guidebook) and the Affiliates Map
- Laptop loan: [NOCE Offers Student Laptop Loan Program](#)
- Device and hotspot loan: [Los Angeles Public Library Tech2Go](#)
- Hotspot loan: [Sacramento Public Library Mobile Device Lending Guidelines and Agreement](#)
- Websites: [ConnectHomeUSA](#) (and the previous pilot [ConnectHome](#) for playbook) and [EveryoneOn](#)
- Website: [Mobile Beacon](#)
- Website: [Mobile Citizen](#)

Digital literacy

- Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills. (This definition is originally from the American Library Association.)



A Digitally Literate Person:

- Possesses the variety of skills – technical and cognitive – required to find, understand, evaluate, create, and communicate digital information in a wide variety of formats;
- Is able to use diverse technologies appropriately and effectively to retrieve information, interpret results, and judge the quality of that information;
- Understands the relationship between technology, life-long learning, personal privacy, and stewardship of information;
- Uses these skills and the appropriate technology to communicate and collaborate with peers, colleagues, family, and on occasion, the general public; and
- Uses these skills to actively participate in civic society and contribute to a vibrant, informed, and engaged community.

Digital literacy resources

- OTAN news article: [Helping Our Students Develop Digital Literacies](#) and [Digital literacies](#) at the website, Digital Learning by Mark Pegrum
- Website: [ISTE Standards](#) for Students, Educators, Education Leaders, and Coaches
- [OTAN Resource Guide](#) and the [OTAN website](#)
- Article: [14 Tips For Helping Students With Limited Internet Have Distance Learning](#)
- Website: [Ditch That Textbook eLearning](#)
- Webinar (from the National Skills Coalition): [The New Landscape of Digital Literacy: What policymakers and workforce advocates need to know](#) – scroll down to **More digital literacy resources**
- Website: [DigitalUS](#)
- Facebook Group: [Dealing with Educational Inequities in Distance/Online Learning](#)

Some additional resources

To learn more about rural education

- [National Rural Education Association](#) (with state affiliates)
- [California Rural Ed Network](#)

What to do about e-waste

- [National Cristina Foundation](#)
- [Alliance for Technology Refurbishing and Reuse](#)
- [PCs for People](#)
- [The Repair Association](#)
- Look for tech recyclers in your area, like [RRRcomputer.org](#) and [Tech Exchange](#) in the San Francisco Bay Area, [Computers for Classrooms](#) in Chico, [human-i-t](#) in Long Beach, and [San Diego Futures Foundation](#)

Tech support

- OTAN news item: [Using Students to Help with Tech Support](#)