



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2017

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: The 1Million Project to Close the Digital Divide

The 21st century learning environment extends beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. Michigan schools have purchased over half a million devices in the past four years through the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) Device Purchasing Activity. With the prevalence of devices, many teachers have shifted to use of digital instructional materials that require connectivity beyond the school day. Seventy percent of educators assign homework that requires internet connectivity. Equitable access to the internet is crucial to maximize student learning; it is no longer a luxury.

Sprint has launched the 1Million Project aimed at closing the digital divide through the provision of high-speed home internet in addition to a free device. This is a program for high schools that are able to identify, enroll, and support a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 5,000 high school students per year who do not have high-speed internet access at home, for four years. High schools must have the capacity to administer and maintain the program. Additionally, Sprint requires schools to provide program feedback. Sprint encourages schools to convene community stakeholders to gauge interest and support. Ideal applicants would have robust community support in order to maximize program value. The application process for the program, which begins with the 2017-2018 school year, is now open. Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2017 and must be submitted by a high school or district. To learn more about the opportunity, visit <http://goodworks.sprint.com/1millionproject>.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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