

<b>MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:</b>		<b>May 2020</b>	
<b>REPORT ON INTERNET CONNECTIVITY SURVEY</b>			
<b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Section 161.092, RSMo		Consent Item	Action Item
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report Item
<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>			
Success-Ready Students & Workforce Development			
<b>SUMMARY</b>			
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has led to the closure of school buildings and the need for distance learning. This pandemic has highlighted the digital divide with students having and not having internet access at home. In an effort to understand the magnitude of this issue, the Department created a survey to capture details from school leaders on internet access related to distance learning.</p> <p>This presentation will provide details on the results of the internet connectivity survey.</p>			
<b>PRESENTERS</b>			
<p>Jeff Falter, Chief Data Officer, Office of Data System Management, and Tim Arbeiter, Director of Broadband Development, Department of Economic Development, will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.</p>			

*State Board of Education*



# Internet Connectivity Survey

May 2020



# Internet Access

- An estimated 23% of students lack sufficient internet access
- Reasons:
  - Affordability 165
  - Limited cell coverage 54
  - No physical access 28
  - No Wi-Fi device to use 21

## Greatest Connectivity Need

- Low cost internet 165
- Hotspots 143
- Community Wi-Fi 91
- Wi-Fi enabled devices for students 77

## Solutions Currently Implemented

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Extending Wi-Fi outside of the school buildings | 280 |
| • Hotspots  | 115 |
| • Extending Wi-Fi at partner/community buildings  | 89  |
| • Wi-Fi on buses                                  | 23  |

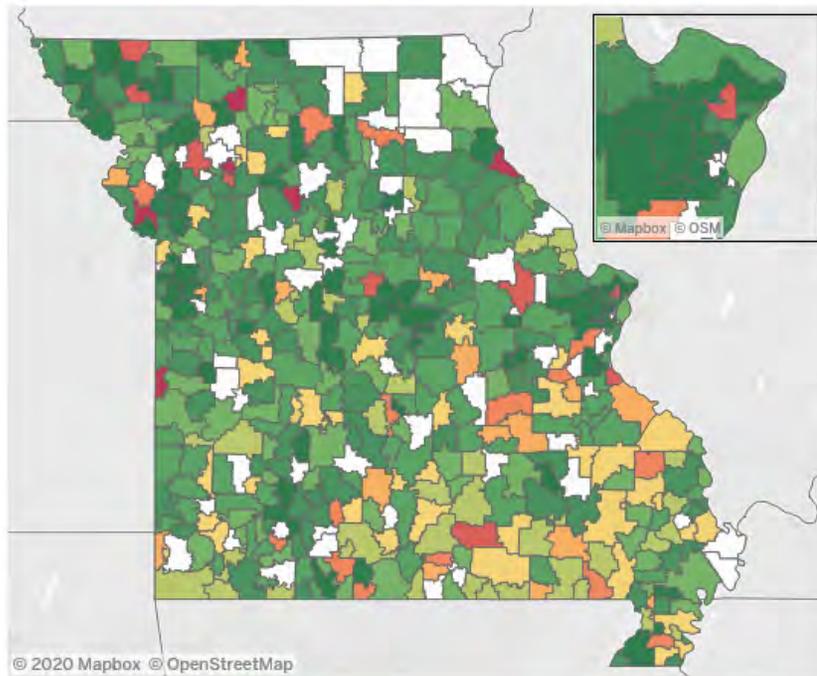
## Solutions Interested in Implementing

- Hotspots 306
- Extending Wi-Fi at partner/community buildings 245
- Extending Wi-Fi outside of the school buildings 232
- Wi-Fi on buses 197

# Providing Wi-Fi Devices to Students

Schools	350
• High School	306
• Middle School	329
• Elementary	230

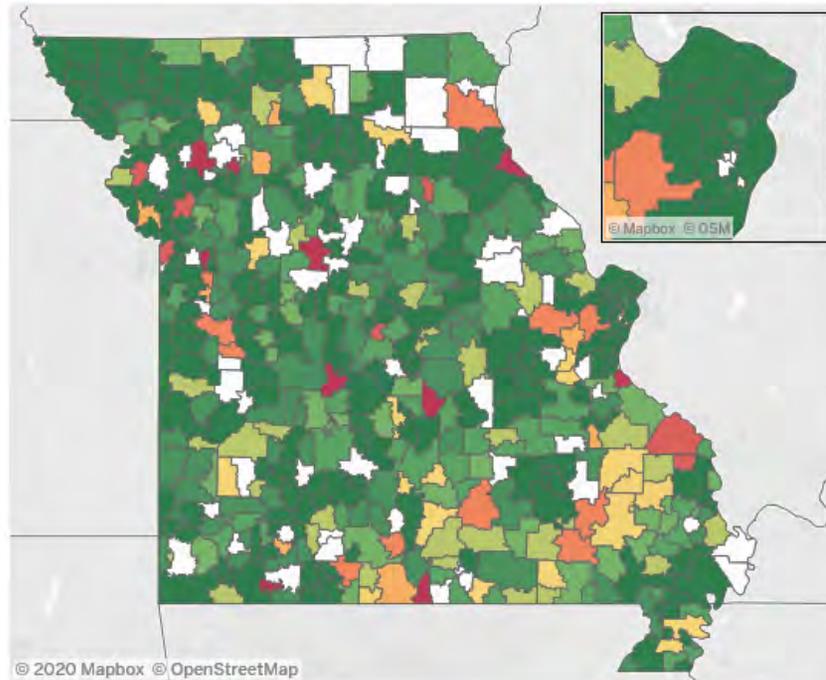
# Estimated Students Without Internet Access



Response	LEAs	Enrollment
0-10%	81	253,120
11-20%	103	223,612
21-30%	100	128,274
31-40%	64	95,973
41-50%	42	32,431
51-60%	41	41,252
61-70%	17	11,362
71-80%	15	11,821
81-90%	11	18,492
91-100%	6	8,342
No Response	75	89,969

© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

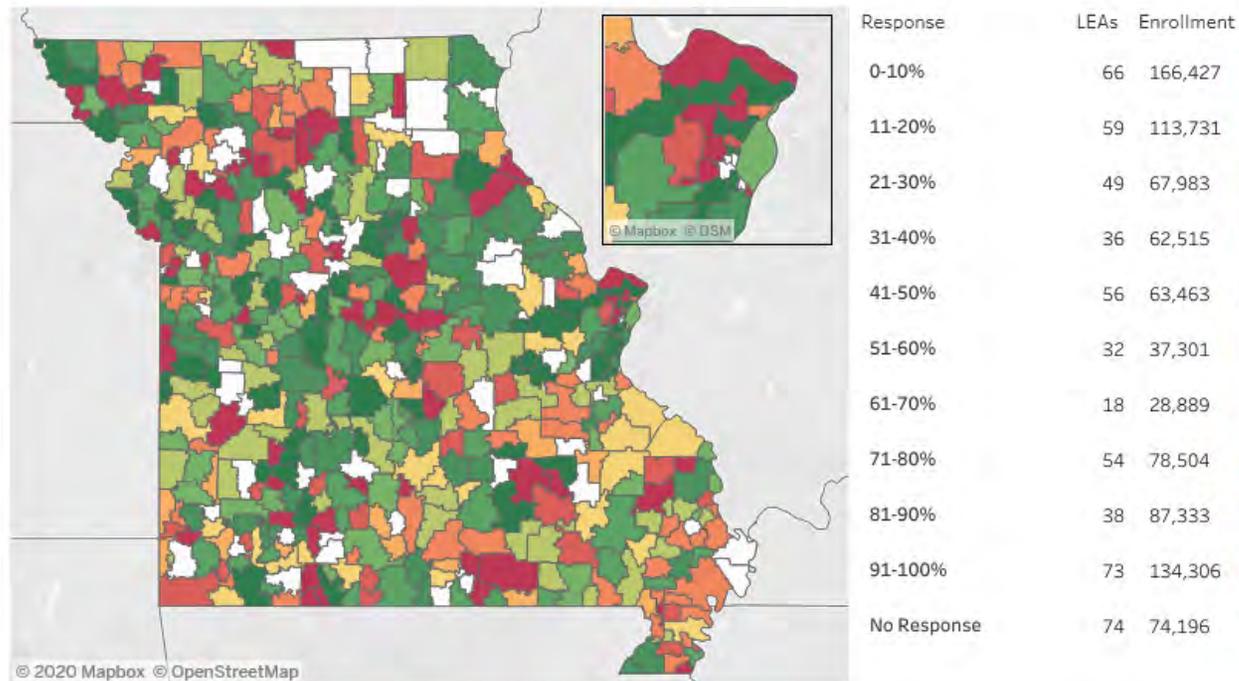
# Estimated Students Without Physical Access



Response	LEAs	Enrollment	
0-10%	227	546,301	
11-20%	83	91,550	
21-30%	55	41,026	
31-40%	29	25,316	
41-50%	32	50,072	
51-60%	20	8,914	
61-70%	8	9,250	
71-80%	11	30,639	
81-90%	7	22,206	
91-100%	10	15,317	
No Response	73	74,057	

© 2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

# Affordability is the Driving Factor



## Internet Service Providers (ISP)

- Number of ISPs in the State 255
- ISPs in school districts and charter schools 65
- Contacted ISP for Partnership Opportunities 149

## Expanding Broadband in Missouri



### Missouri Broadband Grants (April, 2020)

\$3.05 million in grants to sixteen projects (13 providers), expanding access to 4,416 locations

### USDA ReConnect Round 1 (January, 2020)

\$103 million in grants & loans to 6 providers, expanding access to 14,053 locations

### FCC Connect America Fund II (August, 2018)

\$255 million in subsidies to 11 providers, expanding access to 94,735 locations

## COVID-19 Challenges

- Over 40+ providers signed the FCC Keep American Connected – no disconnects, waiving of fees
- Examples of crisis outreach by providers include access to affordable programs, hotspots availability, and collaborating on community connectivity strategies
- Companies also were navigating social distancing, while meeting the increased needs of consumers

## What's Next – Closing the Gap in Distance Learning

- Affordability is a significant barrier, as well as physical access. Engage districts with area providers
- Collaborate with stakeholders to present technology solutions, best practices, and opportunities to districts wishing to close the gap
- Provide guidance on short-term solutions that could help mitigate access to learning



## Contact

Jeff Falter

Chief Data Officer

573-522-3207