

Digital Skills and Literacy in Education: Addressing Equitable Broadband Access

Ensuring equitable access to digital skills and literacy is a strategic priority for the National Coalition of Advanced Technology Centers (NCATC). In an increasingly digital world, the challenge of ensuring that everyone has access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet poses significant challenges to education and workforce development.

NCATC Collaborations Will Find a Solution

NCATC recognizes the importance of addressing equitable broadband access through strategic initiatives and policy advocacy. We focus on key aspects of equitable broadband access such these:

Geographic inclusivity: Equitable access requires investing in infrastructure to reach rural and underserved urban areas that lack access to high-speed internet.

Affordability: Equitable broadband requires making internet services affordable for low-income households.

Digital Literacy: Equitable access involves digital literacy programs designed to help individuals navigate online space, understand cybersecurity, and utilize digital tools for personal and professional growth.

Inclusive Policy: Equitable access requires public and private policies that prioritize closing the digital divide.

Public-Private Partnerships: Equitable access requires collaboration between governments, private companies, and non-profits to leverage the different resources and expertise they bring to the challenge of addressing gaps in internet availability.

Community Engagement: Equitable access requires understanding the specific needs of different communities.

Equitable Broadband Access

Equitable broadband access is critical to education, workforce development, healthcare, business and economic opportunities, and civic participation. Addressing these factors is crucial in ensuring that broadband access is widespread and equitable, giving everyone the opportunity to participate fully in the digital economy and society.

Additional Resources

- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-programSBullet 1>
- <https://www.uschamber.com/on-demand/technology/the-importance-of-equitable-internet-access-and-broadband-expansion-for-all>