

ConnectEd Initiative Summary

Check out the ConnectEd website at www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/06/06/what-connected

The White House recently unveiled its new ConnectEd Initiative, which calls on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to connect 99 percent of students with next-generation broadband, at speeds of at least 100 Mbps and ideally 1 Gbps, and provide high-speed wireless in schools and libraries within five years.



The Initiative's main goals include improving access through the following methods:

Updating Connectivity

The President plans to work with the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to leverage existing programs and connect America's schools, which may include updating the E-Rate program.

Training Teachers

ConnectEd will focus on helping teachers integrate new technologies into the classroom. These technologies will allow teachers to participate in online professional development, utilize real-time assessments and online lessons, and open their classrooms to interactive demonstrations, discussions and presentations.

- Existing funding through Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act may be used to fund professional development to help teachers keep pace with changing technology.
- Existing funding through Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act may be used to train educators to use the educational technology needed to implement new, computer-based assessments of student learning.

Encouraging Private Sector Innovation

The White House will also focus on encouraging private sector investments in devices that utilize high-speed broadband networks. These devices will give students greater access to online tools including richer content, foreign language instruction, and one-on-one academic assistance.