

**Ensure access to reliable connectivity and devices so all students may participate fully in a modernized PK-12 public education system, institutions of higher education, and technical training programs.**

- Increase access to dual credit, advanced placement/international baccalaureate, and career and technical education coursework and training through online programs in high school, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education.
- Make available the necessary infrastructure, technology, and basic digital literacy training for expanded remote instruction and blended learning models, not limited to instances of a public health crisis.
- Create opportunity for greater integration of technology in every classroom.
- Increase access to online applications for college, including admission, financial aid (FAFSA), and scholarships.

**To propel the state's twenty-first century workforce and economy forward, Texas must address the changing technological demands of employers and equip workers with the digital tools to compete in middle-and-high skill jobs, fostering economic growth and mobility.**

- Ensure affordable access to connectivity, technology, and basic digital literacy in order to increase opportunities for:
  - Employment in high demand, high paying industries;
  - Enhanced job-embedded learning and professional development that leads to career advancement; and
  - Industry certification and upskilling in high demand jobs and careers.

**Ensure access to necessary technology and infrastructure needed to maintain reliable tele-medicine services, especially in locations where medical professionals are not physically available.**

- Ensure affordable and reliable connectivity to:
  - Share vital health resources and enable disease surveillance across the state;
  - Increase access to tele-medicine, especially in rural areas that lack access to healthcare providers, for elderly and medically fragile patients with limited mobility, and for patients with chronic conditions;
  - Increase access to medical sub-specialists and twenty-first century medical procedures; and
  - Increase access to tele-counseling and tele-therapies, such as physical therapy.

**Develop a statewide broadband plan that addresses the unique needs of communities across the state and identifies sources of dedicated funding. Texas should consider the following:**

- Identify disparities across the state caused by inequitable digital access to education, healthcare, e-commerce, and other opportunities not traditionally available to individuals who lack quality access;
  - Enhance the collection of data to identify connectivity gaps, enable timely response to critical needs, target investments, and evaluate progress;
- Consider various sources of sustainable funding, including an immediate investment of federal funds; dedicated state and/or federal funding; philanthropic support; and corporate financial support and initiatives;
- Outline a process for achieving increased reliability of broadband and connectivity services to ensure consistent access to adequate broadband with a minimum speed of 25/3;
- Develop a plan for affordable broadband access to low income families and individuals whose primary barrier to connectivity is the cost;
- Develop comprehensive statewide marketing plan to educate all Texans about connectivity options available, including plans, pricing and connectivity speeds; and
- Establish an Office of Digital Connectivity to guide development and implementation of a statewide broadband plan.