

ORGANIZER FOR NOTES (Digital Access: filled in)

Name _____ Teacher _____

Class _____ Period _____

Digital Citizenship Theme/element: Digital Access	
Research question: How can low-income students acquire Internet access at home?	
Search terms: low-income, students, Internet access	
Provide background information for this theme/element	Source #
“This is especially true for families with school-aged children. Computers and online connectivity are becoming increasingly important to ensuring that educational opportunity is open to all children, regardless of their economic status. Whether it is keeping up with school assignments and tracking grades; selecting an appropriate new school; watching tutorials on how to complete a math problem; researching papers and typing essays; investigating colleges and financial aid opportunities; looking for local after-school activities and community resources; or taking advantage of educational software, games and videos—digital tools have become key components of children’s education.”	4
“Ownership of mobile devices has grown swiftly since the introduction of the smartphone and has created more opportunities to connect to the Internet. Mobile devices have meant more Internet connectivity, but a closer look at how lower-income families use that access reveals the digital divide is still a problem.”	3
What are the issues/problems associated with this element?	Source #
“...until all families have reliable Internet access at home, learning environments will not be equal.”	4
“Kids who don’t have reliable Internet access at home, which includes the use of a laptop or desktop for connecting to the Internet, are “less likely to go online to look up information about things that they are interested in,” according to the report. While mobile devices do provide Internet access, kids don’t seem to use them for the deeper type of information learning championed by tech advocates: 35 percent of children with mobile-only access look up information often, as compared with 52 percent of kids with Internet at Home.	4
A strong Internet connection at home allows kids to work on homework assignments, look up information and communicate with teachers and classmates more readily.	4
Kids are less likely to be online in general and doing informal learning when they have mobile-only access,” Said Victoria Rideout, a co-author of the report.	
The researchers found that only 6 percent of families with incomes that qualify for discounted Internet services had ever signed up for such programs.	4
A combination of a lack of services provided, hurdles in qualifying for discounts (such as having no missed payments), and a lack of awareness of discount programs often stood in the way.	4
“33 percent of those living below poverty level and 23 percent of those living below median-income level rely on mobile-only Internet access. And keeping their mobile devices connected is a struggle, as 24 percent of that group had their service cut off because of payment issues.	4

Of those surveyed who do have home Internet, so percent have had their Internet cut off due to lack of payment within the last year and 26 percent say too many people share the same computer.	4
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5-17 year old students' access to fixed broadband service at home differed by geographic location. A higher percentage of students in suburban areas had fixed broadband access at home than students in rural areas, with the largest difference noted for students in remote rural areas.	7
A lower percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch reported that they had a digital device in their home, or that they first used a computer prior to first grade, than their peers who were not eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch.	7
What are some practical solutions to these issue/problems?	Source #
Only 6 percent of families with incomes that qualify for discounted Internet services had ever signed up for such programs. A combination of a lack of services provided, hurdles in qualifying for discounts (such as having no missed payments), and a lack of awareness of discount programs often stood in the way. Schools can have a role in educating families about discounted Internet programs.	3
Teachers were trained to deal with classrooms where only half the students had internet access at home. Educators were asked to evaluate the efficacy of the homework they assigned to ensure it was valuable. They also learned about apps students could use at home that didn't require connectivity, and they were encouraged to have students download materials at school so they could work at home.	5
The libraries. The district adjusted library hours at schools, keeping them open later in the day so kids could do homework after school.	5
Device refurbishment: Repairing, upgrading, and reusing devices business/community members no longer need can create both an educational opportunity and a source of low-cost devices. In making its transition to online assessment, Delaware used this strategy.	6
Work with the community: School officials could partner with local business to create homework partner programs, says Krueger. Schools provide logos to local restaurants, coffee shops – perhaps even a dental clinic – to place on the door of these establishments to indicate students can use their Wi-Fi.	10
Provide mobile hotspot: Some schools and libraries have programs to loan hotspots to students, he [Krueger]says. Students can take these mobile hotspots devices anywhere and have Internet access.	10
Wire buses: Some districts have added Wi-Fi to school buses so teens can take advantage of long commutes to school or athletic events to complete assignments, Krueger says....Other schools park connected buses in low-income communities to give students access.	10
Build awareness of affordable options: Some internet providers offer services to low-income individuals at discounted rates. For instance, Comcast's Internet Essentials service is \$9.95 a month for qualifying customers.	10
Ensure students have devices: Students don't just need a broadband connection to get online. Moore says the Boulder Valley School District's 1:Web program provides	10

low-income high schoolers with a free Chromebook, while other teens receive the device for a relatively small fee.	
Copy and paste the Easybib MLA citation for each source in a cell.	Source #
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