



Media Contact: Jessica Ditto
jditto@connectednation.org
(202) 251-4749

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2012

Broadband Creates Educational Opportunities In Michigan

Newly released Connect Michigan report shows broadband linked to higher test scores

[Read the Report](#)

Lansing, MI – Broadband and e-Learning applications expand educators’ instructional capabilities and boost students’ research and interactive opportunities beyond the confines of the traditional classroom. Accordingly, Internet access is at the core of educational curriculums in Michigan.

Michigan school districts are promoting numerous creative initiatives to promote online education. To examine the impact broadband and e-Learning are having, Connect Michigan took a look at broadband availability and usage across the state. In particular, this study looks at the correlation between broadband availability and school achievement and examines how Michiganders of all walks of life are accessing e-Learning opportunities.

“In this high-tech age of digital delivery, online interaction is a critical function for educational attainment and economic opportunity,” said Eric Frederick, program manager for Connect Michigan. “Increased broadband access, adoption, and use provides the platform for long-term sustainability in Michigan communities.”

Some key findings from the report include the following:

- As the school district’s average broadband availability increased, so do math and reading proficiency scores for students in grades 3 through 8. In addition, school districts with higher average broadband availability have a greater share of students who meet ACT college readiness benchmarks.
- Approximately 2.4 million Michigan adult Internet users are e-Learners, meaning

that they take online classes or use the Internet to conduct research for schoolwork.

- When households with broadband were asked which factors contributed to their decision to subscribe, more than one in seven (15%, representing approximately 714,000 adult Michigan broadband subscribers) reported that the main reason for subscribing was that someone in their home needed broadband for school.
- Among Michigan adults who subscribe to mobile broadband service on their cell phones, 14% (representing nearly 300,000 Michiganders) say they use their cell phone to access online classes or conduct research for schoolwork.
- Nearly one-half of adult Michigan Internet users who have taken some college courses (49%) pursue further education online, compared to 29% of Internet users with a high school diploma or less.

[Click here](#) to further explore the intersection of technology and education.

###

About Connect Michigan: As the designated entity for broadband mapping and planning in the state of Michigan, Connect Michigan is a public-private partnership between the Michigan Public Service Commission and Connected Nation to work with local governments, businesses, and citizens in the goal of increasing broadband service in the state's underserved areas. For more information about what Connect Michigan is doing to accelerate technology in Michigan's communities, visit www.connectmi.org.

Follow Connect Michigan on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).