TO: Indiana School Leaders
FROM: Indiana Department of Education
DATE: August 14, 2020
RE: Announcing September as Digital Equity Month

Many of you have been working to gather information on student home Internet access since we've urged you to collect this data as part of your registration and enrollment processes for the 20-21 school year. September will be a month where we celebrate the progress on this data collection effort and where we work together to support each other in gathering these data elements for each student. Details about how to be involved are provided below.

During **Digital Equity Outreach Month**, the IDOE is encouraging schools and school corporations to take action by directly connecting with families, to understand and support their home digital access needs.To kick-off this month of action, IDOE will be co-hosting a webinar on **Tuesday, August 25th at 3:00 EST** with EducationSuperHighway, our nonprofit partner whose mission is to increase broadband access for K-12 students. ESH has created tools and resources to support school districts with addressing connectivity challenges, including a *Home Access Needs Assessment Playbook*.

Register Here for Indiana's Digital Equity Kick-off

Webinar participants will:

- Hear from Indiana school leaders who are working to identify these data elements for all of their students and their progress to date.
- Learn about how your Student Information System can be used to support the gathering of this data.
- Discover useful tools to support your outreach to families (e.g., call scripts, email templates, outreach tracker, and data collection repository).

IDOE has communicated a list of digital equity data elements to be collected. See our original memo from June 26th for a list of these elements. We hope 100% of schools in Indiana will collect these data elements for each student.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a renewed urgency for closing the digital divide in America's education system. With schools having to quickly pivot to online learning, it is more important than ever to ensure access to an Internet connection and a dedicated learning device for students at home. IDOE remains committed to advocating for these resources on your behalf so we can close this equity gap.

As part of Digital Equity Month, IDOE will be communicating additional opportunities for schools to share their ideas and progress around digital equity data collection. We encourage you to connect your school to this effort by registering for the kick-off event.