



# CALIFORNIA BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

When school campuses across California closed due to COVID-19 in March of 2020, over six million students, their families and hundreds of thousands of educators had to pivot overnight to distance learning. The stark reality we faced was that one in five California students lacked the resources to continue their education from home, without internet connectivity, a device, or both. In the midst of a global pandemic, Governor Newsom, the First Partner, the State Board President and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction joined forces with urgency and partnered with the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation to form the Bridging the Digital Divide Fund (BDD) in a matter of days.

Dozens of philanthropic organizations, companies and individuals met the moment to help bridge the digital divide in California. In addition to addressing the pandemic-related digital divide, the BDD Fund enabled CDE and CDE Foundation to respond immediately to the technology needs of every school district impacted by the 2020 wildfires. Your generosity of over \$18.4 million and thousands of devices donated to the BDD Fund catalyzed outside donations in the tens of millions directly to communities and school districts throughout the state, resulting in the distribution of 75,374 computing devices and 101,306 hotspots and ultimately led to the investment of \$5.3 billion by the Governor and the Legislature to support distance learning in schools, \$2.1 billion of which was spent on technology resulting in 1.1 million devices in the hands of California students.

Funding also seeded development of California Educators Together, a free digital resource sharing and curriculum development platform, as well as the Digital Divide Innovation Challenge, which will award \$1 million to solutions which remove barriers and expand high-speed internet access to all California students. Companies were also instrumental in providing the technical assistance needed to successfully leverage these investments, including Intel, which provided a full-time supply chain management expert to help school districts access devices which were in short supply.

As a result of these efforts, in March 2021, according to a USC and Technology Fund study, 95% of California families with school-age children said each of their kids had their own device to use for remote classes. On behalf of students, educators, and communities, we thank you.



**405**

DISTRICTS  
REACHED



**\$18.4m**

DONATED THROUGH  
MARCH 2021



**138**

DONORS  
CONTRIBUTED



**1.1m**

DEVICES DELIVERED  
TO CA STUDENTS



**97%**

COUNTIES  
REACHED



**95%**

CA STUDENTS NOW  
HAVE THEIR OWN DEVICE



**101,306**

HOTSPOTS  
DISTRIBUTED



**\$5.3b**

INVESTMENT BY THE  
LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR

# THANK YOU

## to Our Donors and Partners

Thank you to the donors and partners who contributed funding and in-kind donations to the CA BDD Fund.

- Aaron Levie
- Amazon
- AT&T
- Benificus Foundation
- Box
- Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
- Craig Newmark Philanthropies
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- Scott Cook and Signe Ostby through The Valhalla Charitable Foundation
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- Susan Sandler Fund
- Target
- T-Mobile
- VIPKid
- Zagg Inc.
- Zoom
- Anonymous Foundations
- Individual contributions through GoFundMe campaign

## KEY PARTNERS



Thank you to our key distribution partners who enabled us to deploy technology to school districts in a cost-effective and timely manner despite worldwide shortages of Chromebooks during the COVID-19 pandemic. We could not have managed this without their incredible effort.