United States

K-12 Student Digital Access

This is a summary of the estimated digital access for the United States. The national-level profile is based on the latest available American Community Survey (ACS) micro-level data from 2018. The analysis was prepared by researchers at Public Policy Associates, Inc. (PPA) on behalf of the NEA. Because of standard errors, apparent differences might not be statistically significant. Full digital access includes both broadband and a device.

**Children Ages 5-17**

53,253,077

**Children without Full Access**

13,496,948 (25.3%)

### Full Access by Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under-resourced</th>
<th>Higher income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Children Ages 5-17 in Households with Full Digital Access (both broadband internet and a device) by Income Level Estimated as Below or Above the Federal Poverty Threshold

- **75%** of children living in under-resourced households (below the federal poverty threshold) have a device other than a smartphone, compared to 94% of children in households at higher income levels.
- **58%** of children in under-resourced households have broadband access; 81% at higher income levels.

### Full Access by Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Access to a Device</th>
<th>Access to Broadband</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI/AN+</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Children Ages 5-17 in Households with Full Digital Access (both broadband internet and a device) by Race/Ethnicity. +At times, this report uses terms from U.S. Census data (e.g., American Indian/Alaskan Native) and not NEA-inclusive groupings.

- **83%** of African-American/Black children have access to a device other than a smartphone at home, as compared to 95% of White children. 69% of Black children have access to broadband.
- **85%** of Hispanic/Latinx children have a device at home, and 70% have access to broadband internet.
Who Lacks Full Digital Access?

- 30% of children in households with at least one unemployed parent
- 23% of children in households with a parent at home for remote learning
- 21% of children in households with a member of the essential workforce
- 34% of children with parents without a bachelor’s degree
- 23% of children in metro households
- 37% of children whose parents are renters
- 37% of children in non-metro households
- 18% of children whose parents are homeowners

- 47% of children in under-resourced households lack full digital access
- 31% of Native students and students of color do not have access to broadband and a device
- 16% of teachers do not have access to broadband and a device at home