

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

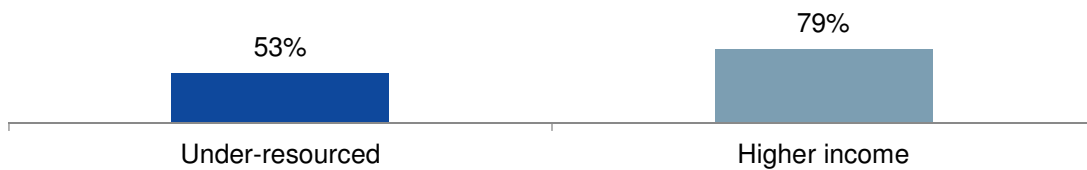


Figure 1: Children Ages 5-17 in Households with Full Digital Access (both broadband internet and a device) by Income Level Estimated as Below or Above the Federal Poverty Threshold

- 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

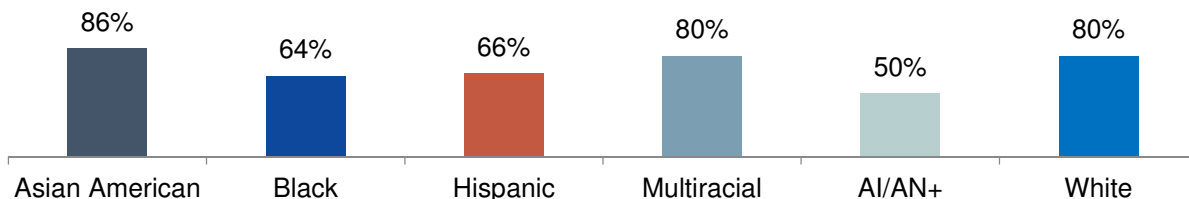


Figure 2: Children Ages 5-17 in Households with Full Digital Access (both broadband internet and a device) by Race/Ethnicity. +At times, this report uses terms from U.S. Census data (e.g., American Indian/Alaskan Native) and not NEA-inclusive groupings.

- 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