



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2020

Contact: Janice Rombeck

Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese

70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110

408-299-5030; 408-803-2095 (cell)

Janice.rombeck@bos.sccgov.org

Bridging the Digital Divide Project Receives \$7.1 Million from the County

Supervisor Dave Cortese's proposal targets disadvantaged neighborhoods

The Santa Clara County Office of Education has received \$7.1 million from the County of Santa Clara to bring technology to disadvantaged neighborhoods, an investment proposed by Supervisor Dave Cortese and approved by the Board last month.

“This investment in the Bridging the Digital Divide Project is especially critical during considering schools across the County are going to be using distance learning for the foreseeable future because of the pandemic,” said Supervisor

Cortese. “Students who do not have access to the Internet or own computers have been left out of this educational opportunity and are falling behind.”

Shelter in Place orders have forced school districts to shift to online learning, which leaves out an estimated 15,000 students in the County’s 31 school districts who need laptops or tablets and the 9,361 families are without access to the Internet, according to the Office of Education.

Not only will this not only provide distance learning to more students but will also connect their families to vital COVID-19 information, medical appointments, employment opportunities, food resources and housing aid. The proposal received strong support from residents and organizations that advocate for social and economic equity.

Supervisor Cortese asked for this funding to be expedited, especially since the governor’s recent limits on the physical reopening of local schools. The County will need to be off the State’s Monitoring List for 14 days before in-classroom education can resume.

For more details on the Bridging the Digital Divide Project, click [here](#) to read a report.

For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Cortese at 408-299-5030.