SHLB
SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES BROADBAND COALITION

WEBINAR SERIES

www.shlb.org/webinars

July 16, 2020

Back to School? Broadband Solutions for Online Learning

Brought to you by the SHLB Coalition, with support from:

ena®

SOCIAL MEDIA

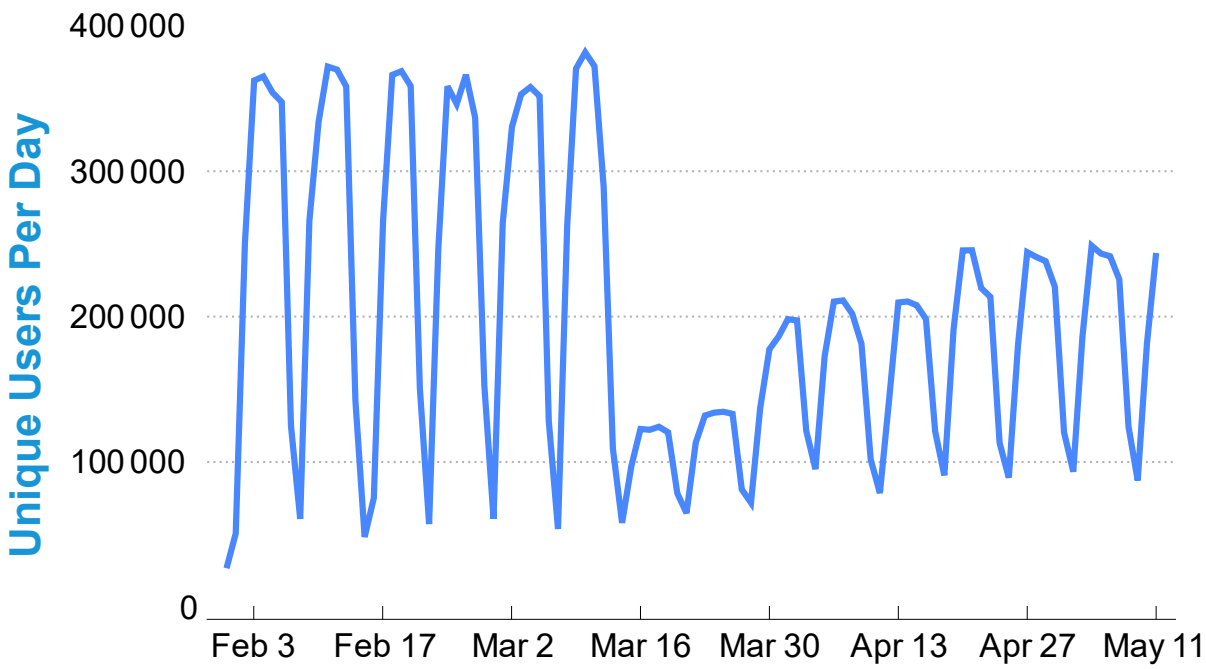
Follow us @SHLBCoalition

Join the conversation with #SHLBWebinars

SPEAKERS

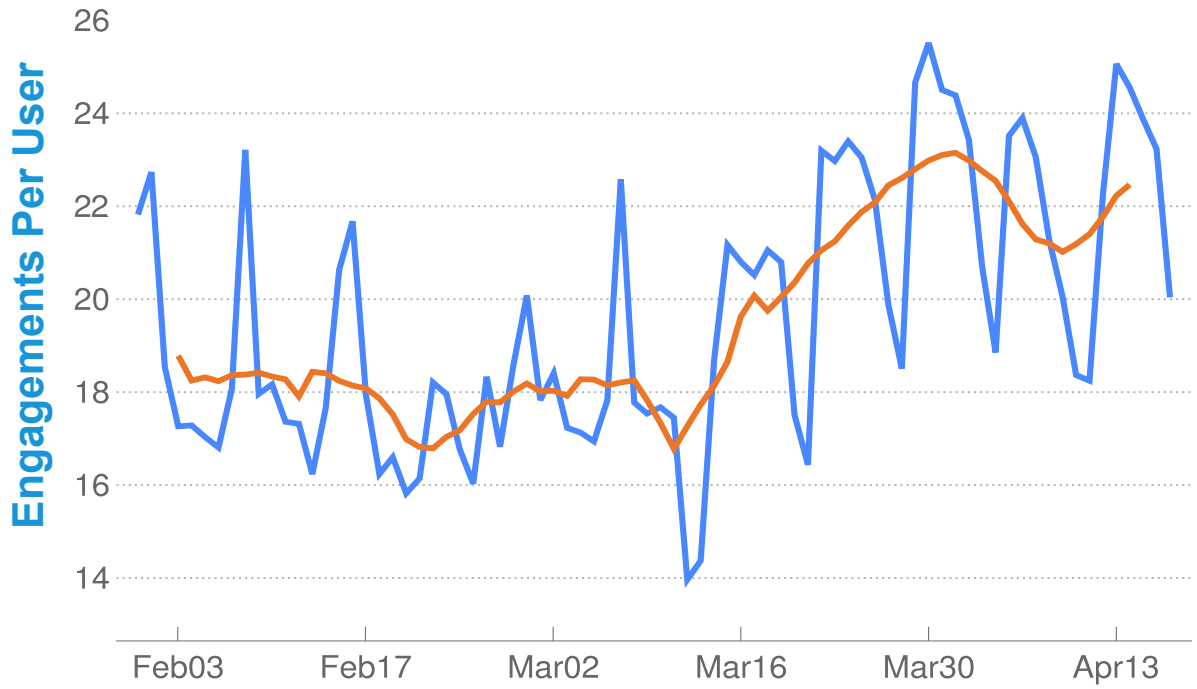
- *Moderator:* **John Windhausen Jr.**, executive director, SHLB Coalition
- **Michael McKerley**, vice president, chief technology officer, ENA
- **Joe Rodriguez**, director of technology, Mountain View School District (Idaho)
- **Jenna Boggan**, technology coordinator, Mountain View School District (Idaho)
- **Michael Flood**, vice president, strategy, Kajeet
- **Matt Hiefield**, teacher, equity team member, Beaverton School District (Oregon)

Shift to eLearning: Trends in Engaged Users



- COVID-19 and spring break triggered a significant drop in application usage across the nation in mid-March (roughly 70% drop.)
- As eLearning initiatives are implemented nationwide, the number of unique users engaged with online applications and tools trends encouragingly upward, though still lower than before the pandemic.

Shift to eLearning: Engagements Per User



An engagement represents one user accessing an individual application on a single device in a given hour.

Shift to eLearning

- Before COVID-19, the number of engagements per user averaged 18 per day.
- By early April, the engagements per user averaged 22 per day. **This represents a 22% increase** in engagement per user even as the total number of online students has decreased.
- Weekend engagements are also significantly higher after the shift to eLearning occurred.

Addressing The Homework Gap

4 Ways Schools and Libraries Have Taken Action

- Enabling Community Access to their Wi-Fi and Internet
- Working with Local ISPs
- Providing Cellular Hot Spots and Internet on School Busses
- Building their own LTE networks

Mountain View School District

The Challenge

Geography made home connectivity impossible for some students and teachers

- Grangeville: Approximately 75% of MVSD's students have some type of Internet access
- Kooskia: Approximately 50-60% of MVSD's students have some type Internet access

Mountain View Continued

Access Versus Reliable Access

- Students may have Internet but is it reliable?
- Can it support a family of four or five that is engaged in telecommuting and remote learning?
- Many of Mountain View's students were forced to use their cellular data plans and phones to try to complete online assignments

Mountain View Continued

Overcoming the Digital Divide

- MVSD worked with a local Internet service provider to provide discounted rates for families in need
- The district provided building access to teachers who lacked connectivity at home to conduct virtual courses
- MVSD provided devices to students in need

Mountain View Continued

Thinking Outside the Building

- Had outdoor APs installed to provide Internet access to the Mountain View community
- Communicated the availability of new APs through social media
- Success!
  - A student accessed an AP from a parking lot the very first night.
  - A parent that lived a remote area with no Internet access was able to bring her four children to an AP site to complete their schoolwork.

Mountain View Continued

Other Community Outreach Efforts

Beyond connectivity, teachers and district leaders were concerned about the emotional and physical wellbeing of their students.

- The district's buses delivered food and paper assignments to students
- MVSD's teachers did house calls to check on their students and deliver resources
- Staff leveraged video conferencing tools to connect with students

kajeet®

Michael Flood

Kajeet SVP, Strategy

CoSN Board Member

A Rapid Transition to Distance Learning

- **15-16 million K-12 students** in the U.S. **(30%) do not have Internet access** at home. *(Common Sense Media Report, 2020)*
- **400,000 teachers cannot teach remotely** because of lack of Internet. *(Common Sense Media Report, 2020)*
- Even before COVID-19, nearly **one in five students** said they had trouble completing homework because of **lack of Internet access.** *(2018, Pew Research)*

Digital Equity and the “New Normal”

- Distance Learning in AY 2020-21
- Operational Challenges
- Funding and Budgets

Matthew Hiefield

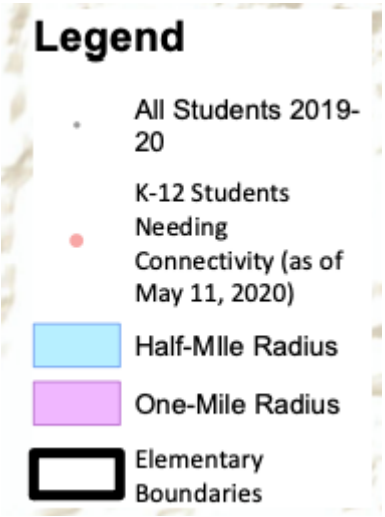
Teacher, Curriculum Developer at
Beaverton School District (Beaverton, OR)

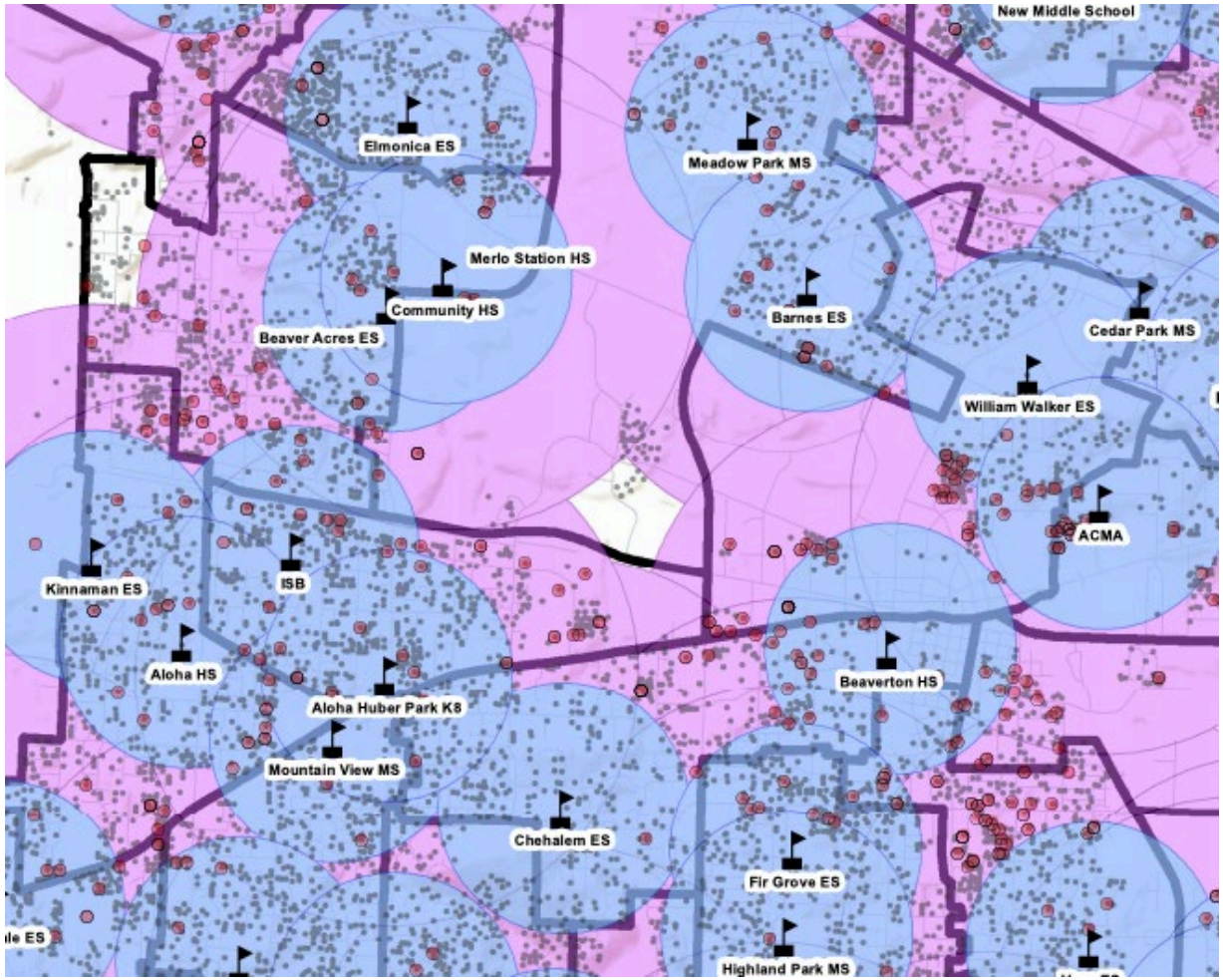
ISTE Digital Equity PLN Leader
ISTE Digital Equity PLN Editor
CoSN Digital Equity Advisory Council Member
BSD Equity Team Member

Identification of Students Without Adequate Connectivity

- Counselors
- Multi-Lingual Department
- Surveys
  - Notifications sent out by phone/text
- Analysis of Platform Use
  - Which students are not accessing district platforms from home

Beaverton Schools Internet Access Identification Project





After Devices Are Delivered and Connectivity Addressed…

- Create a Student Help Desk
- Monitor Hotspot Usage
- Create All-District Webinars

Thank you!


SHLB
SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES
BROADBAND COALITION


kajeet


ena

MODERATED Q&A

- *Moderator:* **John Windhausen Jr.**, executive director, SHLB Coalition
- **Jenna Boggan**, technology coordinator, Mountain View School District (Idaho)
- **Michael Flood**, vice president, strategy, Kajeet
- **Matt Hiefield**, teacher, equity team member, Beaverton School District (Oregon)
- **Michael McKerley**, vice president, chief technology officer, ENA
- **Joe Rodriguez**, director of technology, Mountain View School District (Idaho)

Thank You!

www.shlb.org | @SHLBCoalition

The SHLB Coalition is proudly supported by over 200 member organizations, and our generous corporate sponsor: