



September 15, 2014

Dear Superintendent:

On August 11, Governor Beebe and Education Commissioner Tony Wood announced that Arkansas has been selected by the nonprofit organization EducationSuperHighway as one of only two states invited to participate in a comprehensive K-12 state broadband pilot project.

The Arkansas Department of Education and EducationSuperHighway are thrilled to be working together on this important issue and we look forward to partnering with school districts throughout the state to increase access to affordable, high-capacity broadband services in every Arkansas school. Arkansas was selected to participate in this unprecedented opportunity because of the state's strong potential to become the first state to meet the ConnectED goal of connecting all students to high-speed broadband and ubiquitous Wi-Fi.

As district Superintendent, your support and leadership throughout this partnership will be pivotal to the project's success. Your district's participation in the E-rate Item 21 collection this past summer was instrumental in launching this project and helping us begin to understand the challenges currently facing districts across the state. We thank you for your contribution to the data collection effort thus far. Looking forward, we will continue to work with districts to clarify existing data and collect additional broadband and network infrastructure information so that we can understand the full picture of broadband access in the state.

One important way that you can continue to support this project is by spreading the word to your Technology Director and team that EducationSuperHighway will be reaching out over the next month to continue to collect school broadband and network data. The data will be used to identify options for lowering costs and increasing bandwidth for all Arkansas districts.

With your help, we will be able to outline specific actions that can be taken to improve connectivity and ensure that every Arkansas student is connected and every school is digital learning ready.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Tony Wood
State Education Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education

Evan Marwell
CEO and Founder
EducationSuperHighway

cc: Governor Mike Beebe