



### Message from #OU

On behalf of our Coalition, **thank you for your commitment to join our city-wide movement to close the digital divide** and ensure every public school student - the 50,000 students in district and charter schools across Oakland - have nightly home access to a computer, internet and tech support. Your partnership has been critical to increase equity for Oakland students and families.

**Impact to Date:** Since March 2020, ***#OaklandUndivided has created over \$5M in savings for Oakland charter schools.*** Specifically, #OU provided over **6,500 computers and 7,500 free or reduced cost hotspots directly to charter school students**, provided free tech support to all students through Tech Exchange (which served 10,000 tech support requests across Oakland in 20-21), and support in applying for Emergency Connectivity Fund reimbursement. 30 of 32 charter schools chose to be official #OU Partners, signed the pledge, and committed to provide all students with 1:1 home access to computers in 2022-23 and collaborate to leverage funding partnerships to ensure their students home access to computers, internet and tech support.

As we plan for the 23-24 school year, **we hope you will continue to be an official partner of #OaklandUndivided and re-sign the #OU pledge by May 5, 2023.** We integrated feedback from charter leaders, attempted to simplify and clarify expectations as well as provide flexibility wherever possible. Everyone who re-commits will continue to be eligible for benefits of our partnership and most important, ensure digital access for all our students in need. If you have any questions, let us know in hopes we can plan for next year and include you in our upcoming events... hope to see you at our 5/6/23 End-of-year event at [Acorn Woodland Elementary!](#)

Sincerely,

Patrick Messac  
Project Director, Oakland Undivided

# 2023-2024 Digital Access Pledge

**PURPOSE:** #OaklandUndivided is a citywide initiative with to ensure all Oakland public school students have access to:



1. a **computer** for home use,



2. reliable , at-home **internet connection**, and



3. culturally-responsive **tech support**

Our LEA commits to partner with #OaklandUndivided to ensure that every student at our school has access to home digital access **during the 2023-24 school year**. To fulfill this commitment, we will

- proactively assess student home digital access needs,**
- ensure that every student** that is enrolled at our school in every grade **has a computer that is available nightly for use at home,**
- work in collaboration with #OU to **leverage opportunities to support internet access,** and
- appoint a liaison** to implement this ambitious initiative

## 1. Assessing Student Need

To ensure that all students have home access to a computer and internet, our school will survey 100% of students at least once per year to assess their home digital needs through a short survey at the beginning of the year that asks about access to a computer and internet.

**Step 1: Tech Check:** We will integrate #OU's 4-question Tech Check survey assessment for computer and internet access into our data collection processes. For the exact question language, please see the [Tech Check Survey Toolkit](#) (pg 6; or pg 5 if you have to use a binary survey).

**Step 2: Give It to Everyone:** We will integrate the digital access survey (i.e. the 4-question Tech Check) into the Enrollment, Registration, and/or Back-to-School process.

**Step 3: Report Progress:**

We will report student enrollment data and need data quarterly to the #OU Charter School Coordinator, providing transparent data about how many students do or do not have home access to a computer and internet, as agreed upon by our organization signing the California Student Data Privacy Agreement (CSDPA).

## 2. Providing Computers

**Computer Commitment:** We will ensure that **every student grades TK-12 at our school has access to a computer that is available at home during non-school hours for use** during the 2023-24 school year, whether provided by the family, previously provided by #OaklandUndivided, or purchased and/or loaned by our school. There are two ways to fulfill this commitment.

**Option #1** (recommended): After assessing home digital access of all students, LEA commits to providing personal devices for all students without **1:1** access at home during non-school hours. Computers will be provided to students in need within 60 days of enrollment, supply chain permitting, to:

- All new students who enroll in our school who lack access to a home computer.
- Returning students who have a lost or damaged device that needs to be replaced.
- Any student whose needs have changed and no longer have access to a home computer.

For example, one LEA may decide to have students bring a laptop to and from school everyday (textbook model). Other LEAs may decide to ensure all families have a device designated for home.

**Option #2:** After assessing all students for home digital access, LEA may decide devices will only be provided to students who either (1) have **no** access to a device at home, or (2) who only have **limited** access to a shared device. This means

- LEAs may deem that students have adequate digital access if they reside in a household where students have access to a shared device that is always available for them to complete learning tasks.

For example, one LEA may ensure 1:1 for all students in upper grades and an available device for elementary students who may have less need for a 1:1 device.

### 3. Support Home Internet Access

**Internet:** Once needs have been identified through a digital needs assessment, LEA will work in collaboration with #OU to ensure students have home internet access.

This may include:

- Collaborating with non-profits or CBOs to enroll unconnected students and families in the long-term federal broadband subsidy (Affordable Connectivity Program) through in-person events at school sites, distributing enrollment information to families, directing families in need of assistance to call centers
- Accessing free or discounted hotspots that #OU partners have access to, applying for state or federal funding to offset the cost of devices, or pursuing other partnerships with #OU.

### 4. Appoint a Liaison

**Appoint a liaison:** In order to support completion of the needs assessment, distribution of devices, collaboration with #OU to ensure students have home internet access, communicate all opportunities directly requested by #OU, respond to email requests for data sharing from #OU, share testimonials, provide feedback and updates, and make decisions on behalf of our school as it relates to these commitments. Funding permitting, #OU will provide a stipend of \$500 for this liaison.

We understand that this is a pledge, not a legally binding agreement, and reflects an intended commitment for partnership in the 2023-2024 school year.

Print, sign, scan, and return this pledge by **May 5, 2023**, affirming your commitment for the 2023-24 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charter Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charter Leader Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charter Leader Signature





**Mission:** #OaklandUndivided's goal is to close the digital divide by ensuring that all Oakland public school students in need have access to computers, internet, and tech support at home.

**Impact to Date:** Since March 2020, *#OaklandUndivided has created over \$5M in savings for Oakland charter schools.* Specifically, #OU provided over **6,500 computers and 7,500 free or reduced cost hotspots directly to charter school students**, provided free tech support to all students through Tech Exchange (which served 10,000 tech support requests across Oakland in 20-21), and support in applying for Emergency Connectivity Fund reimbursement.

**Impact to Date:** In the 2022-23 school year, #OaklandUndivided has supported

- **95%** of Oakland charter LEAs in signing a [Data Sharing Agreement](#) so we can more effectively target students to complete our needs assessment survey and understand what the digital access needs of our charter school students are across the city.
- **90%** of Oakland charter LEAs in applying for federal [Emergency Connectivity Fund \(ECF\)](#), a \$7.17 billion program that helps schools provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning - this includes laptop and tablet computers; Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers; and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students, and school staff.
- **75%** of Oakland charter LEAs in using the new-and-improved [Tech Check Survey](#) to assess digital access needs of our charter school students are across the city.
- **50%** of Oakland charter LEAs in applying for [T-Mobile's Project 10 Million](#). Any Oakland school that qualifies for the plan can get 100GB of FREE internet data per year for five years and a FREE mobile hotspot, and alternatively, for unlimited high speed data you can take advantage of \$11.67/line. This is the lowest rate in the nation, negotiated only for Oakland students.



## **#OaklandUndivided Goals: Our Proposed Model to Provide Computers, Internet, and Tech Support, contingent upon available funds - External Draft**

*Note: These are our #OU goals and not a firm commitment - below is our intention and current plan to serve the schools that are pledging to provide computer access at home, though details may change.*

To support Oakland public charter school students to have home access to a computer, internet, and tech support during the 2023-24 school year, funding permitting, #OaklandUndivided intends to (1) provide a stipend of \$500 for a liaison at each school, (2) increase visibility as part of a city-wide public school movement for all school partners, (3) provide home-owned computers for families who express need, (4) provide access to discounted hotspots and internet subsidies rates for students who express need, (5) outreach, awarenesses, central tech support for schools who express need for extra support.

### **1. #OaklandUndivided School Liaison**

- a. Funding permitting, #OaklandUndivided will provide a stipend of \$500 for a liaison at each school to support completion of the needs assessment, distribution of devices, communicate all opportunities, respond to email requests for data sharing, testimonials, feedback, and updates, and make decisions on behalf of the school as it relates to home connectivity.

### **2. Increased Visibility within #OaklandUndivided**

- a. #OaklandUndivided charter school partners will be invited as a formal partner to the public launch this Spring and will be named as an official partner during the public launch with increased visibility to the greater Oakland and national community.
- b. #OaklandUndivided values our partnership with charter schools and we welcome feedback to meet our common goal of ensuring all public school students across Oakland have access to computers, internet, and tech support.
- c. While not required, representatives from charter organizations may have the opportunity to participate as #OaklandUndivided sub-committee members to share feedback and support our movement to close the Digital Divide.

### **3. Partnership in providing computers to all students in need**

- a. OUSD has committed to provide computers to ensure that all students TK-12 have home computers for the 2023-24 school year.
- b. 90% of Oakland charter schools pledged to provide computers to ensure all of their students TK-12 had home computers in the 22-23 school year.

- c. In the 2022-23 school year, all #OaklandUndivided school partners had access to Emergency Connectivity Fund consultants, subsidized by #OaklandUndivided. Funding permitting, #OaklandUndivided plans to subsidize consultant fees for ECF or similar federal programs if continued in 23-24 to support schools in accessing federal funds to provide computers to students.
- d. Funding permitting, #OaklandUndivided in partnership with Tech Exchange will provide home-owned devices to families that express need in a needs assessment survey that they have no home computers. These devices will be owned by the families who qualify through the Tech Check survey.

#### **4. Partnership to ensure all students have access to the Internet at home**

- a. For the 23-24 school years, #OaklandUndivided school partners are receiving access to [T-Mobile Project 10Million](#) hotspots that are free up to 100GB/year then \$11.67/month for unlimited data use. This unlimited data price is a steep discount that #OaklandUndivided partners received; the regular price is \$20/month.
- b. #OaklandUndivided plans to work with EducationSuperHighway, grant writers, and school partners to leverage public funding and other opportunities to ensure all students have internet access at home.
  - i. #OU will encourage and support schools to apply for state and federal funds designated for internet access, such as the [Emergency Connectivity Fund](#) and the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) to access a \$30/month subsidy for students in need for the next five years.
- c. If need exceeds availability through public funding sources that schools can apply to (e.g. Emergency Connectivity Fund) and private partnerships (e.g. TMobile Project 10Million, Affordable Connectivity Program through Comcast essentials or other partners), #OU will work to provide internet access to fill gaps of any students who qualify through the Tech Check survey, funding permitting.

#### **5. Partnership in providing Tech Support for all students**

- a. Through #OaklandUndivided's partnership with TechExchange, all charter school students will receive access to multilingual tech support and outreach support.
- b. In addition to access to in-person and over-the-phone tech support, this may include support at school sites for outreach, distribution, tech support, and computer repairs.

