

Connecting Students Across Ontario with Faster Internet *Province Investing in Broadband Access for All Students*

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NEWS

The province is improving access to high-speed broadband connectivity in schools across Ontario — particularly in Northern, rural and remote schools — to provide all students with reliable and equitable access to learning resources.

Education Minister Mitzie Hunter and Liz Sandals, President of Treasury Board and MPP for Guelph, visited Westminster Woods Public School in Guelph today to announce Ontario's investment to improve broadband infrastructure across the province. The first wave of 182 schools will impact 73,000 students, including those in the Upper Grand District and Wellington Catholic District School Boards.

Improving broadband connectivity and access ensures that students from every region of the province have equitable access to online information, courses and resources needed for 21st century learning.

Depending on the needs of individual schools, infrastructure upgrades will include:

- Investing in new fibre optic infrastructure to connect schools to an internet service provider
- Improving network capacity to handle large amounts of data required to use new technologies in the classroom
- Ensuring a broadband speed of 1 Megabit per second per student and updating the network design to be more student-friendly

Providing equitable access to broadband services for students is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

“Meeting the global standard for broadband speeds of 1 Megabit per second per student is a priority of our government. It is our goal to ensure *all* students in Ontario are provided with the tools necessary to reach their full potential.”

- Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education

“I’m proud of the progress Ontario is making to provide students with safe and equitable access to broadband. As the world becomes more and more interconnected, having access to broadband is as important as having a textbook.”

- Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph

“With expanded school broadband internet, more students in Ontario will have reliable access to digital learning resources like TVO’s mPower, a creative online game that teaches fundamental K-6 math and STEM skills, and TVO’s Homework Help, which provides support for mathematics at school and free math tutoring five evenings a week. ”

- Lisa de Wilde, Chief Executive Officer of TVO

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing up to \$50 million in the Broadband Access for All Students initiative.
- The initiative will move Ontario's schools toward equitable access to adequate broadband speed in three waves over the next four years.
- The first wave of 182 schools will meet the 1 Mbps per student connectivity by the 2017-18 school year.
- The second wave will begin in 2017-18 and will include more than 1,000 schools across Ontario.

LEARN MORE

- [Ministry Developed 21st Century Learning Teacher Resources](#)
- [Specialist High Skills Major – Information and Communications Technology](#)
- [The Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce](#)
- [TeachOntario Talks – engaging students in math with coding and programming](#)

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