

MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 21-32: Resolution in Support of California Broadband Legislation: Assembly Bill 14 (Aguiar-Curry), Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez), and Assembly Bill 34 (Muratsuchi)

WHEREAS, California public schools serve more than 6.1 million students¹, representing almost 11% of the 56.4 million children in the United States attending elementary and secondary schools²; and,

WHEREAS, despite California's leadership role in the technology industry, 26% of the state's K-12 students and almost 40% of low income students do not have reliable Internet access³; and,

WHEREAS, there is a racial/ethnic gap in broadband access. Despite on average 84% of Californian's having broadband subscriptions, 21% of Latino households and 19% of Black households do not; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of access to high-speed broadband exacerbates the digital divide and persists in rural, suburban, and urban regions; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Latino and Black households, amplifying historical inequalities in health, education, and poverty; and,

WHEREAS, lack of high-quality Internet access impacts children academically during distance learning but also as students return to classrooms that now rely on web-based learning tools for homework and academic support; and,

WHEREAS, children and their families need access to the Internet to survive and thrive, including to access virtual healthcare, mental healthcare, housing and food assistance, jobs, unemployment benefits, and information about vaccination and testing; and,

WHEREAS, universal Internet access is a human right, as vital as water or electricity, and needs to be ubiquitous and accessible for all; and,

WHEREAS, regulatory barriers, a lack of funding, and lack of development of broadband mean the digital divide continues to impact children and families; and,

¹ "Fingertip Facts on Education in California," California Department of Education, October 2020, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/ceffingertipfacts.asp>

² "Back to School Statistics," National Center for Education Statistics, Accessed March 20, 2021, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>

³ Niu Gao and Joseph Hayes, "Just the Facts, California's Digital Divide," Public Policy Institute of California, February 2021, <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-digital-divide/>

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 14 (Aguiar-Curry) extends the collection of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to fund broadband infrastructure development past its current sunset year of 2022 and provides regulatory structure and programmatic amendments to ensure high-speed, reliable broadband is deployed throughout the state, including in rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez) updates the CASF by making communities eligible for grants based on their true internet need, promoting deployment of high-speed, 100mbps broadband, and making it easier for local governments to apply for grants and finance their own infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 34 (Muratsuchi) places the California Broadband for All Act on the November 2022 ballot, a general obligation bond measure of up to \$10 billion to close the digital divide throughout California by investing in statewide broadband infrastructure and increasing access to high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved communities throughout the state; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain View Los Altos High School Board of Trustees calls on the California State Legislature to expand high-speed broadband access for all residents by approving Assembly Bill 14, Senate Bill 4, and Assembly Bill 34; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mountain View Los Altos High School Board of Trustees calls on federal entities to support the efforts of state and local agencies to develop high-speed broadband throughout California.

Adopted this 26th day of the month of April, 2021.

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

Fiona Walter, President
Board of Trustees

Dr. Nellie Meyer, Superintendent