



This client hired me to edit a series of short case studies (which they called “vignettes”) into punchy, short blurbs. Each blurb would range from 50 to 100 words long.

To draw in readers, I created new headlines and short paragraphs that illustrated what they would learn in the longer companion article. To see more examples, visit:

[http:// stateofthestates.educationsuperhighway.org/](http://stateofthestates.educationsuperhighway.org/)

ORIGINAL

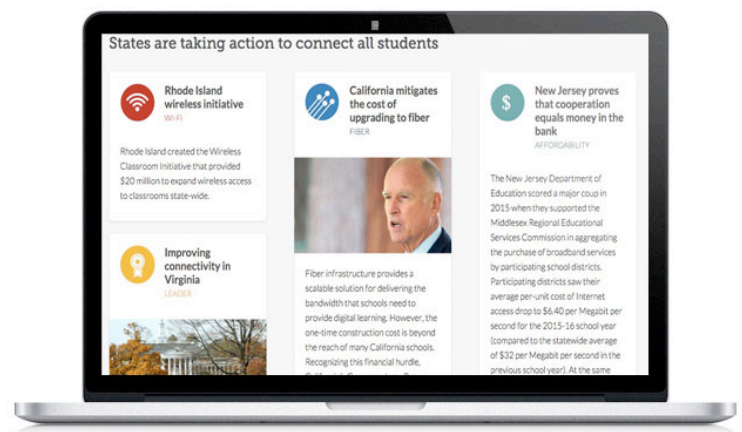
Network Maine Upgrades

Established education networks have observed first-hand the incredible growth in bandwidth demand from K-12 students. Networkmaine is one such network. The operators of the network at the University of Maine System knew that getting scalable fiber infrastructure to schools would be critical to ensuring that K-12 bandwidth needs could continue to be met. With the existing transport contracts set to expire in the summer of 2015, Networkmaine structured an RFP for new circuits that was aimed at meeting SETDA connectivity goals. The RFP was designed to deploy fiber to as many locations as possible by requesting a minimum bandwidth of 100 Mbps per location. After a successful RFP process in the Winter of 2014-15, the average bandwidth per school increased from 187 Mbps to 515 Mbps with no increase in overall cost. 99% of schools now have fiber connections. Networkmaine is working with the 4 remaining sites without fiber to find alternative connectivity solutions that will meet their digital learning needs.

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Maine upgrades 99% of their K-12 schools to fiber

Thanks to the efforts of Networkmaine, 99 percent of Maine’s K-12 schools now have the bandwidth they need to take advantage of digital learning opportunities. After a successful RFP during the winter of 2014-2015, the majority of Maine’s schools increased their average bandwidth from 187 to 515 Mbps while maintaining the same overall cost.



ORIGINAL

CA BIIG Fiber Grant - Fiber

While fiber infrastructure is the most scalable (and in some cases the only) technology that can deliver the bandwidths that schools need for digital learning, high one-time costs associated with new fiber construction preclude access for some sites. During a field test of its new online assessment program, California observed that while most schools in the state possessed fiber connections, a subset of schools lacked this important infrastructure for digital learning and computer-based testing. In response, Governor Jerry Brown included a \$27M one-time fund in the state's annual budget to upgrade the fiber infrastructure to connect these schools. The Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG) was established to administer these funds under the direction of California K12HSN, a pre-existing state program that facilitates K-12 participation in the state research and education network. BIIG identified the schools most in need and then executed a state-run RFP to solicit fiber construction to connect to the state network for the qualifying sites. As a result, 171 sites in California will be upgraded, with over 80% of these sites upgrading to 1 Gpbs connections. 95% of the grant sites will be connected to fiber. K12HSN is planning a second phase of the BIIG program that will address the remaining schools.

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California mitigates the cost of upgrading to fiber

Fiber infrastructure provides a scalable solution for delivering the bandwidth that schools need to provide digital learning. However, the one-time construction cost is beyond the reach of many California schools.

Upon learning of this financial hurdle, California's Governor Jerry Brown established the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant. After identifying qualifying schools, the grant executed a RFP to solicit fiber construction bids. To date, 171 schools have been selected, 95 percent of which will soon be connected to fiber.