Topical **Brief**

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TECHNOLOGY & COVID

As schools transitioned to virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state education leaders assessed their technology systems and students' ability to conduct remote school activities. This topical brief summarizes state technology needs and strategies in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, as outlined in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief plans.

State Needs

	KY	TN	VA	WV
Connectivity among special populations (e.g., homeless, low-income, disabled)	✔	✔	✔	✔
Adequate multi-lingual parent support to help students with technology at home	✔			
Access to reliable high-speed internet/broadband	✔	✔	✔	
Technology infrastructure upgrades				✔

State Strategies

Digital Learning Guidelines are available for schools, districts, and digital providers

Over 200,000 devices and data services will be provided to districts through the T-Mobile Tech for TN Students program

A Virtual Learning Support Toolkit provides evidence-based guidance for school leaders and educators

Through West Virginia Kids Connect, students can access the internet from Wi-Fi hotspots in the community

Kentucky	Tennessee	Virginia	West Virginia
• Digital learning coaches for K-12 teachers • 1 to 1 mobile device/ computer per KY K-12 student • Redirect the cost of software licensing from local districts to KDE/Office of Education Technology; simplify and enhance user and information security	• Partnered with universities to offer professional development for educators and administrators on technology/digital learning • $1 million IDEA Technology Partnership Grant for districts to purchase assistive technology/tools for students • Districts will provide students with connectivity devices and data services	• Professional learning for teachers on effective use of technology • ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds to increase technology device and internet access • Virginia General Assembly appropriated ARP funding during a Special Session to achieve universal broadband in Virginia by 2024	• Through West Virginia Kids Connect, Wi-Fi hotspots are installed in all public schools, institutions of higher education, public libraries, and state parks • Competitive grants to LEAs to support educational technology needs