JUNE 2020

# THE CONNECTED
# EDUCATOR
## CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

## Announcing ACTEM 2020 Keynotes

*Anthony Johnson, Jr. & Kerry Gallagher*

### ANTHONY JOHNSON, JR.

Anthony Johnson is an award-winning educator. He is one of 30 international TED-Ed Innovative Educators of 2016. He is also a Lego Master Educator and an Apple Distinguished Educator. In 2016 he was named Teacher of the Year for Rowan Salisbury Schools, and in 2017 he was named North Carolina's Southwest Teacher of the Year. Anthony hated school as a child.

## 2020 CONFERENCE GOING VIRTUAL!

*By Cheryl Oakes*

The ACTEM board has made a safe decision to hold the ACTEM 20/20 conference as a virtual conference on October 20/21, 2020. With so many unknown factors about the fall and with the knowledge that the Maine community of educators appreciates the ACTEM fall conference, the conference committee is creating a virtual conference of unparalleled experiences! We know that you all have been involved with virtual instruction, and the hope is that this virtual conference will showcase our keynote speakers who will inspire us, as well as the experiences you will share with others, including how best to use humor, creativity, and mindfulness in distance learning and virtual spaces. We will work to make this conference unique as well as informative and entertaining.

### TWITTER UPDATES
Please check Twitter for weekly messages about the conference. The call for proposals has been extended through the end of June 2020. Consider sharing your reflections from your experience during the Distance/Emergency Learning period. What has been the best about distance learning for staff/students/food services? What has been the worst about distance learning for staff/students/food services? Get personal about what you would have done if you had more time to prepare.

### NEWS FLASH!!!
The Conference Committee is looking for Virtual Presentations for the October 2020 conference. You've all been involved in distance learning and we know you all have great ideas to share. Please consider submitting your proposal and know that some presentations may be chosen to go live while many presentations will be recorded and on the conference schedule for attendees to view at their leisure. Please submit your written proposal with the understanding that once chosen to be

## Presidents Message

*Will Backman, Director of Technology for the schools of Vassalboro, Waterville, Winslow*

It was difficult to figure out what to write about during this pandemic. Perhaps "The Longest Shortest Year", "Diving Headlong into Distance Learning", or maybe "I'm an Expert Guinea Pig." Will this crisis be transformative or just a temporary shift in how we teach and learn? How has it impacted norms and expectations, and what does it say about not only the digital divide but also socioeconomic disparity? Perhaps there is no central theme or unifying thread to this shared disruption, as it is in many ways experienced so differently by everyone. I don't have any wisdom to share, but I want to express my admiration for all of you during this pandemic. As we push through our own personal challenges in order to provide as much stability as we can to the families we serve, it is encouraging to see educators connecting with each other for support and ideas. The potential for technology to transform education has been unleashed upon all of us, willing or not, and as we wind down the academic year, all of our schools will need to reflect on what has worked and what hasn't. I see ACTEM as a community well versed in the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, and it gives me hope for the next school year to know that we all have each other to lean on.
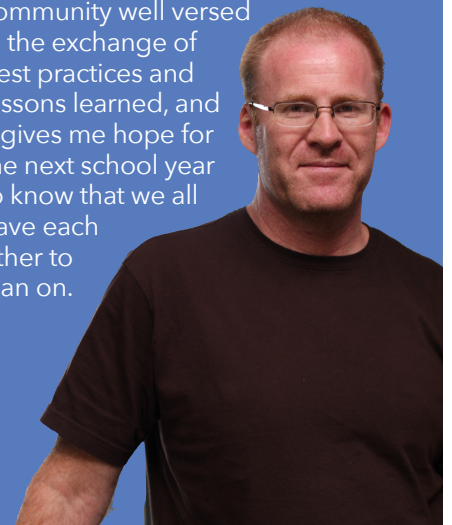
# actem
## Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine

P.O. BOX 187
GORHAM, ME 04038

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS
**William Backman** President
wbackman@aos92.org

**Mike Arsenault** Vice President
mike_arsenault
@yarmouthschools.org

**Deborah White** Recording Secretary,
ACHIEVE Co-Chair
flickatomte@gmail.com

**Scott Nason** Treasurer
snason@bonnyeagle.org

**Gary Lanoie** ACTEM Executive Director
glanoie@actem.org

**Andrew Wallace** METDA Representative
ATW@spsd.org

**Dennis Kunces** Professional Development
dennis.kunces@gmail.com

**Rachel Guthrie** Newsletter/Graphics
rguthrie@smccme.edu

**Crystal Priest** Past Conference Chair
cpriest@crcsme.org

**Jaime Ela** Educator of Year Co-Chair
jaime.ela@rsu4.org

**Barbara Greenstone** bgreenst2001@gmail.com
Past Conference Chair

**Cheryl Oakes** Conference Co-Chair
cheryloakes50@cgmail.com

**Stephanie Cheney** Conference Co-Chair
cheney@lincolnacademy.org

## actem 20-21 BUSINESS MEETINGS

**Sept. 24, 2020** - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME *Optional Zoom*

**Dec.10, 2020** - Virtual ZOOM Meeting

**March 11, 2021** - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

**May 13, 2021** - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

ACTEM Business Meetings are held from
9:30 AM-Noon followed by
METDA Meetings from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

## DUE JULY 1ST YOUR ACTEM MEMBERSHIP

**ACTEM has a fixed membership year from July 1st – June 30th annually.
All memberships are up for renewal on July 1st 2020**
Individual ACTEM Membership Benefits ($20 annually)
• Quarterly newsletter "The Connected Educator"
• Lunch at quarterly business meetings
• Discounted registration fees at the annual ACTEM conference and other sponsored PD
• Opportunity to apply for Professional Development reimbursement up to $400
• Access to OverDrive eBook & audio book PD library
• Educational discounts on software & other items (as permitted by vendor)
Membership can be renewed by sending a PO or check to the ACTEM office at P.O. Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038.  Members may also renew online with a credit card or PayPal at http://actem.wildapricot.org/join.

## 2020 Conference Going Virtual! *(Continued from Cover)*

part of the ACTEM 20/20 Conference, you will have time to create a video, or you will be notified that your presentation will be one of the live sessions.

We will be looking for a variety of sessions to fill the following strands: Elementary-PreK-grade 4, MIddle School grades 5-8, High School grades 9-12, Special Education, Humor in Distance Learning, Science and Math Labs through distance learning, Coding, Best and Worst of Distance Learning, Food Services and distance learning, Mental Health, School Guidance counselors and Social Work service during a pandemic, etc.

### ALLUDO RETURNS

Alludo, our conference partner from 2019, will return to help us gamify this online experience. If you were one of the Alludo players last fall who enjoyed the gaming part of the conference and enjoyed earning stickers during the day while attending workshops, you will have that opportunity this fall to be on the leaderboard! If you did not play Alludo, not to worry. Once you register for the conference, you will receive instructions to let the gaming begin!

## Announcing ACTEM 2020 Keynotes *(Continued from Cover)*

He threw chairs in classrooms. He fought with students and teachers. He failed fourth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade and ninth grade before being kicked out during his second attempt at freshman year. While asking him to leave school, the principal told Anthony that he'd be better off getting his GED and learning a trade.
Links: Meet Anthony Johnson: Teacher of the Year. Rebel 'Mayor.' High School Dropout  &  EdSurge Podcast, By Kristin Leong, July 2, 2019

### KERRY GALLAGHER

Kerry Gallagher is the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at St. John's Prep in Danvers, Massachusetts. She's also the Director of K-12 Education for ConnectSafely.org – internet safety non-profit in Palo Alto, California – a Future-Ready Instructional Coach, ASCD Emerging Leader, Adobe Education Leader, PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator, and EdSurge Columnist.

She served as a middle & high school teacher and digital learning specialist for nearly 20 years, and her passions include digital citizenship and effective integration of curriculum, pedagogy, and edtech. Kerry is a TEDx & keynote speaker, co-author of several award winning guidebooks for parents and teachers, and a lawyer by training. She was recognized with accolades for her work by the Family Online Safety Institute in 2015, by MassCUE in 2016, and by SmartBrief and St. Anselm College in 2018. She is on social media @KerryHawk02 and her website is www.KerryHawk02.com.

# Health Experts Say Schools Can Reopen in the Fall – But With Some Big Changes

*By Stephen Noonoo K-12 editor at EdSurge -- May 20, 2020*

Across the country—and indeed the world—schools are preparing for a back-to-school season unlike any other in living memory.

Governors are signaling tentative support for schools to resume in-person classes in the fall, with careful planning and a few caveats. Colorado's governor, Jared Polis, went so far as to describe his vision as a "hybrid environment," allotting for altered schedules and intermittent returns to remote learning based on the predicted trajectory of COVID-19 over the coming months.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, a key member of the White House coronavirus task force, has warned of serious consequences if schools open too soon. Other workplace and public health experts say reopening plans like those proposed by Gov. Polis are realistic but that there is a lot of work to be done. "There's going to be some real challenges here," says Dr. Georges Benjamin, the executive director of the American Public Health Association, in an interview. "The intent is to put in place protections the best you can."

Already, schools in Europe have been moving students back into classrooms, experimenting with half-sized classes, one-way hallways and open windows to increase airflow circulation. Earlier this month, an infectious disease specialist in Germany told the New York Times that reopened schools causing a second outbreak was his "biggest fear."

As a general rule, experts advise keeping schools closed until virus cases in a given region are manageable, meaning timetables could look different from one district to the next. The best way for schools to make those decisions is in concert with local health departments, which can also help advise on mitigation strategies, he adds.

> "The obsession with cleaning every surface is important, but the transmission by fomites is much less important than in-person transmission,"

## THE NEW SCHOOL

Enforcing the strict social distancing and hygiene measures necessary to prevent an outbreak is no small undertaking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released limited guidance that leaves much of the decision making up to state and local education authorities.

Already states are putting together back-to-school plans focusing on scheduling and other practical concerns. Some go into details around mask-wearing etiquette, temperature screenings and cleaning procedures.
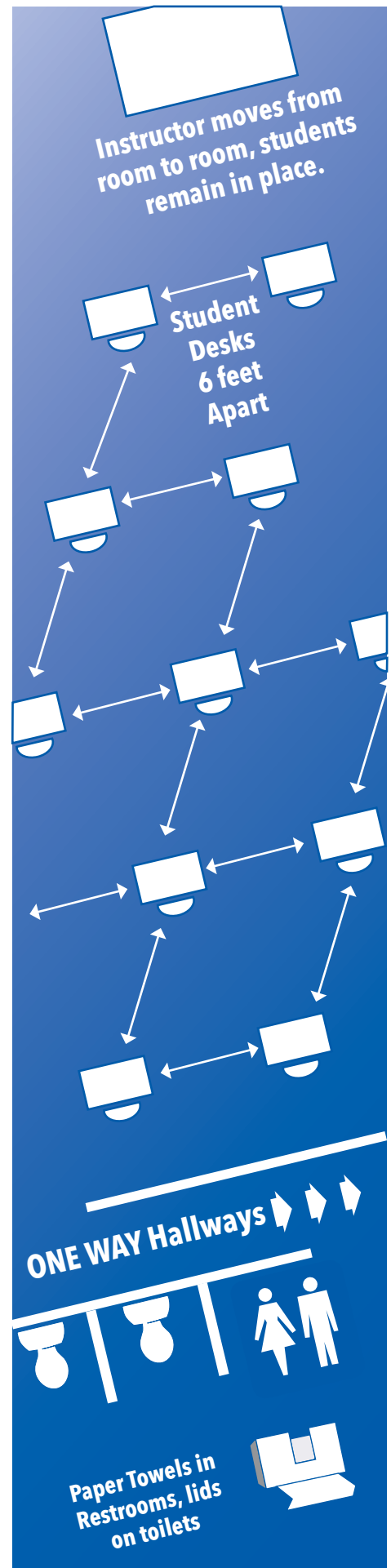
Schools will also need to wade through a morass of individual concerns around cafeteria and classroom seating, transportation and, in some cases, retrofitting bathrooms and other facilities, says Nellie Brown, the director of workplace health and safety programs at the Worker Institute at Cornell University.

Toilets, for example, will need lids to prevent particles from becoming airborne when flushed. Hand dryers should be replaced with paper towels. "I hate to say that we have to do some of these things, but we can't afford to move airborne particles around or make anything that's begun to settle on the surface become airborne once again," says Brown. "It will be disruptive," she adds. "I don't see any way around it."

Reducing airborne spread, along with frequent hand washing, are among the most important mitigation strategies for schools, says Dr. Winslow.

Instructor moves from room to room, students remain in place.

Student Desks 6 feet Apart

ONE WAY Hallways

Paper Towels in Restrooms, lids on toilets

**ISTE20 ANAHEIM NOV 28 - DEC 1**

**Resources and Support for the Online Educator**

A Curated Collection from ISTE Books

ISTE

# ISTE*News*

## ISTE20 Postponed to November

Registration and Housing for ISTE 2020
ISTE 2020 has been postponed until Nov. 28 – Dec. 1, 2020.  ISTE20 registration was closed until May 15th in order to reset all registration systems to align to the new conference dates.  Current registered attendees will automatically roll over. Registration rates will not change (except for the "under 1-year member" rate which will be adjusted to reflect the new membership rate above).

### UPDATED MEMBERSHIP RATES
ISTE is lowering membership rates in response to COVID-19.  Basic Membership has been reduced from $125 to $75 and Premium Membership from $305 to $295.

### ISTE PROVIDES FREE EBOOK FOR ONLINE TEACHERS
The ISTE Books team, along with 21 of our authors, has assembled a collection of excerpts from ISTE books that contain strategies, tips, and insights to help readers navigate a landscape of online learning. The activities and tools were selected because they were designed for an online or home situation, or can be easily adapted for such environments. The ebook also includes material to support educators in well-being and self-discovery through a lens of technology use. This ebook is offered free to all as part of our COVID response on our new Online Learning landing page.  ISTE is encouraging all affiliates to share this resource with their members!

Edtech coalition launches resource for serving special needs students
The Educating All Learners Alliance, announced last week, features resources, case studies, webinars focused on supporting students with special needs remotely. ISTE and IDEA are partnering with the National Center for Learning Disabilities and other organizations to make these resources available.  As part of this collaboration we will be launching a new ISTE U course focused on supporting learners with special needs online.



*Instructor moves from room to room, students remain in place.*

*Student Desks 6 feet Apart*

## Schools Can Open   *(Continued from page 3)*

"The obsession with cleaning every surface is important, but the transmission by fomites is much less important than in-person transmission," he says, using a term for objects that can transfer diseases, like door handles. The most important thing is to encourage very frequent hand washing. That's probably more important than just cleaning environmental surfaces."

For older children, and those who are able to wear them, masks may also be useful—though how much is difficult to say.  Social distancing will also need to be rigorously enforced, and rearranging rooms to ensure proper spacing between people is no small task.

When school architecture firm STR took a stab at diagraming classrooms with about seven feet of space between students, they discovered that schools would likely need to cut class sizes by a third or more to accommodate the new layout. Under STR's blueprints, classes of 24 students can host just 16 students. A packed cafeteria, which typically seats 215 students, would now accommodate just 45.

Another pressing issue is the use of school lockers, which in some cases are stacked side by side, two rows high. "I think you have to abandon your lockers," Armbrust says. In areas with fair weather, schools can also shift instruction and recreational activities outdoors, as the added airflow dilutes the virus more efficiently, says Dr. Winslow.  Of course, that won't work everywhere, adds Armbrust, who is based in Chicago. In fact, his reconfigured school plans were inspired by the fact that schools in his region will need to maximize indoor space for much of the year.

The unedited version of this article originally appeared here in EdSurge (https://bit.ly/EdSurge_SchoolsOpen), which is an initiative of ISTE. You can subscribe to free weekly EdSurge newsletters here (https://bit.ly/EdSurge-Subscribe).

STEAM Powered Learning Lab

0:10 / 1:57
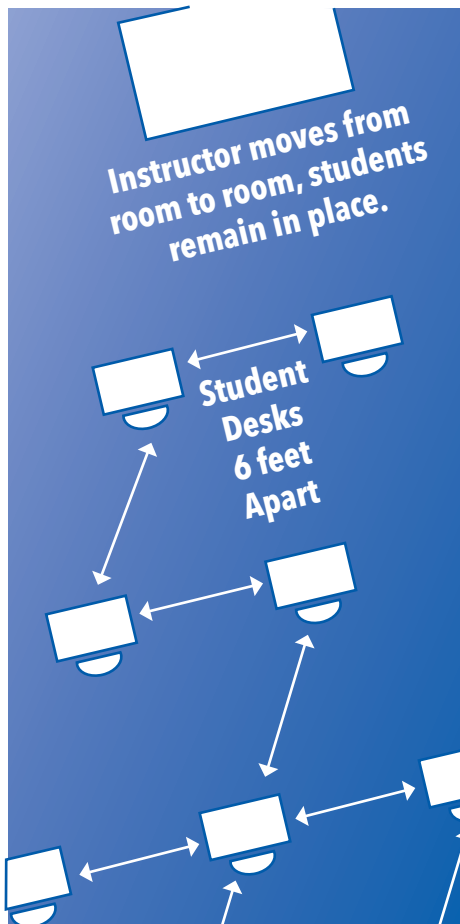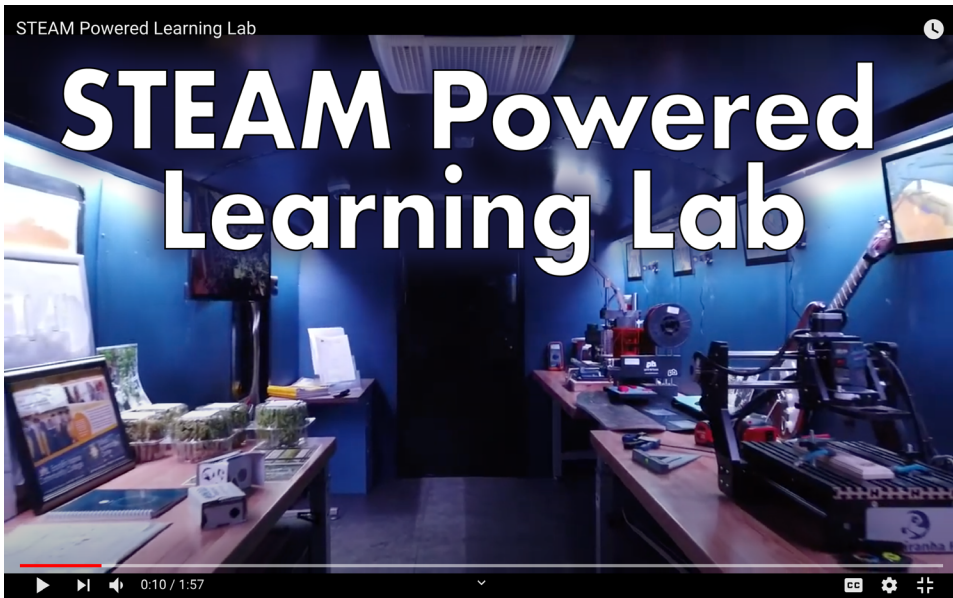
## S.T.E.A.M. Powered Learning

Kern Kelley has been offering live streamed Tech PD from 1:00 - 2:00 on weekdays. He started by offering this to my his, but has now opened it up to any educator. Attendance has been about 30 - 50 participants per session.

The videos are posted on SteamPoweredLearning.org and we cover technology topics that are helpful to teachers who are providing distance learning.



# Maine Summer Technology Institute 2020

**YES!** We will still gather to learn and network during our annual Summer Technology Institute on August 4-6, 2020. In order to stay safe and accommodate social distancing requirements, the Institute will be held virtually. Join the #edtech207 community for diverse workshops with an expanded lens to embrace and reflect upon the current shifts in our educational system.

### LEARNING STRANDS
- Using Computational Thinking to Empower All Learners - Jeff Bailey
- Active Learning and Agency, Leading the Way - Rebecca Buchanan
- Critical Creativity in the Classroom - Dan Ryder
- Empathy, Inquiry, and Integration for Early Learners and Elementary - Allison Fluet

### REGISTRATION
Registration will require enrollment in EDT 580 via MaineStreet. Non-degree students should contact Mia Morrison at mia.morrison@maine.edu to register.
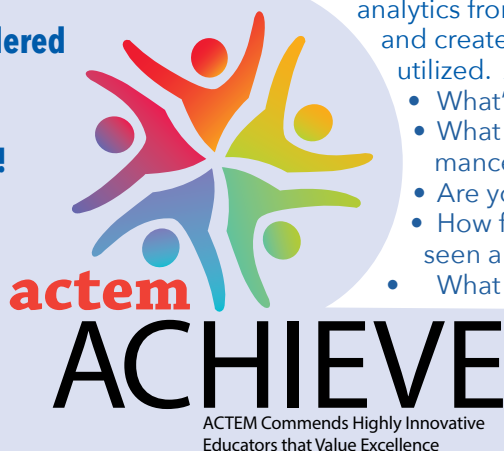
### MORE INFORMATION
- UMS online educational technology graduate programs: https://online.umaine.edu/edtech/
- Maine Summer Technology Institute: https://edtech207.com/institute/su20/

# Do You Need Next-Generation 802.11ax WiFi Now?

*Contributed by Wyebot*

**wyebot**

The newest generation of WiFi, 802.11ax or WiFi 6, is here. It promises faster speeds, better security, and a whole host of other benefits. So, do you need to rush out and bring it to your school today?

Not necessarily. I don't recommend that anyone rush into anything, especially because you may find that upgrading to this new technology may not be the right move for your school right now. While WiFi 6 comes with benefits, those benefits won't be felt equally by everyone. That's because this new standard is designed specifically to alleviate WiFi issues in high density areas.

## WIFI 6 BENEFITS

Before I dive into whether you need the technology or not, let's review the benefits. Perhaps the most discussed benefit is speed. WiFi 6 offers a theoretical maximum speed of 9.6 Gbps, which is an increase from the 6.9 Gbps offered by WiFi 5, or 802.11ac Wave 2 - the current generation of WiFi. Both of these speeds are rarely, if ever, reached in real-world WiFi use, but the increase is still important. It means there is a higher speed to be split across the entire network, giving each connected device the potential to access more speed.

The primary focus of WiFi 6 is to increase the "efficiency" of the wireless spectrum, by reducing "wasted air time". Some other benefits include technology that helps mitigate the issues that arise when hundreds of devices are connected to a single network. This includes technologies that:
• Allow more data to be transmitted per packet, thereby increasing efficiency.
• Enable access points (APs) to send data to multiple devices at the same time
• Allow devices to schedule check-ins with APs to save on battery life and reduce interference
Once again, this is all meant to create a smoother, more efficient experience for WiFi users in congested, dense environments.

## WHAT TO CONSIDER

Okay, so how do you know if you need this technology? In order to answer that question, you need to know what is happening on your network right now. This means that you need detailed business analytics and device forensics.

## BUSINESS ANALYTICS

For the best assessment of your current network, you need core metrics from across your entire infrastructure. This will allow you to assess where you are today and what the trends have been over time, so that you can best predict your future needs. Monitor the network in real-time, 24/7, and gather analytics from each month and each semester. Review historical data and create graphs and reports that detail how the network is being utilized. Answer these questions:
• What's your current client density for each AP?
• What are your peak usage hours? How does network performance compare between those hours and your slowest hours?
• Are you getting close to your maximum capacity?
• How fast are new devices entering the network? Have you seen a 10% increase over the last few years? A 50% increase?
• What are your largest spaces (cafeterias, auditoriums, arenas) used for? Do you ever have a hundred or more people in the space, each with at least one device connecting to the network? For example, do you use auditoriums or cafeterias for online testing?
Use business analytics to capture the clearest,

most detailed picture of network utilization and network demand. You need this data to determine if upgrading to 802.11ax is worth the time and money it will take.

## DEVICE FORENSICS

Gathering device forensics is a critical step to take before making the decision to use WiFi 6. Each new WiFi generation depends on new hardware, not just software updates. This means that you need to buy all new APs, as well as new laptops, tablets, etc if you want to be sure that all devices on your network can connect and use WiFi 6. That is a major investment, and one you don't want to make unnecessarily. You can deploy all new WiFi 6 infrastructure, but if the client devices in your school don't support the new technology, you will see very little benefit.

To understand the current technology using your network, you need to work with an analytics tool that provides device fingerprinting. Using this service, the tool gathers a number of data points and uses those points to create a unique and specific fingerprint, or identification, for each device. You can get a lot of information about device capabilities in this way, including whether or not devices include WiFi 6.

If most of your devices don't support the new technology, and your business analytics don't point to your network becoming considerably more dense over the next few years, WiFi 6 probably isn't for you, or at least not right now. On the other hand, if you already have WiFi 6 devices connecting to your network, and/or if you are planning on increasingly high density environments in the next 2-3 years, then a WiFi 6 investment makes sense.

## PILOT TEST

Once you've analyzed your business analytics and device forensics, I recommend one more step. Before committing your entire school district, or school, to WiFi 6, you should have a trial run.

You need to find out if WiFi 6 provides more efficient utilization, and if there are any interoperability issues with your current network. This is key as most schools will slowly upgrade devices to WiFi 6, rather than making the change in one day.

You want to test the WiFi 6 APs in a high density area. Remember, WiFi 6 is only going to provide a noticeable difference in these environments. In your classrooms, where you likely only have 20-30 students using one AP, WiFi 5 (802.11ac) provides all the support you need.

For the pilot, purchase however many APs you need to support your school's auditorium (or another high density area). Swap out those APs with your current APs, and let them run for about 3 months. Gather analytics the entire time, day and night, so that you can compare results with your pre-WiFi 6 network at the end of the trial. You'll want to check for:
• End user experience
• Any interoperability issues
• Business metrics: density of users in the area, WiFi utilization, etc.

In a nutshell, at the end of the trial you want to know if WiFi 6 provided more efficient network utilization, less efficient utilization, or if there was no noticeable difference.

## DO YOU NEED WIFI 6?

At the end of the day, only you can answer this question. Review your business analytics from the last few years or at least the last few months, use fingerprinting to identify all device capabilities, and, finally, run a pilot test to determine how WiFi 6 impacts your network performance and end users. If you operate in an increasingly dense environment, WiFi 6 may be the answer to your network worries. If you don't, and if the data doesn't point to that changing over the next 2-3 years, it's probably better to wait to transition to WiFi 6 until a later date.

# OverDrive

◼️ eBooks
🎧 Audiobooks

# ACTEM's OverDrive PD Library

Are you an individual ACTEM member? If so, one of the benefits of membership includes access to ACTEM's OverDrive Professional Development Library.

Your membership allows you to borrow up to 2 books at a time for up to 3 weeks. Our collection includes books from many of our previous keynote speakers including: Joe Sanfelipo, Jennie Magiera, Carl Hooker, Rushton Hurley and also our 2019 keynote speakers, Tom Murray and Michael Cohen.

To access the library got to http://bit.ly/ACTEM-overdrive All you need to login to your account is your email address that is associated with your ACTEM membership.

## OVERDRIVE TRAINING RESOURCES
Learning how to use OverDrive is easy and can into your busy schedule. OverDrive features access to on-demand training modules, downloadable PDFs, upcoming webinars, and tools to help you any time of day or night.

To access these resources go to: https://resources.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/how-to-videos/sora/

# How to Confidently Select the Best Sellback Partner

*By Megan Finnegan-Ratliff, SecondLifeMac*

If you're refreshing your devices and are looking for a company to purchase your current fleet, chances are you've run into a number of trade-in companies that look the same. Many promise the highest payout and outstanding customer service, so how can you choose the best partner with confidence from pickup to payout?

According to technology directors, one of the best ways to make a smart selection is to network with peers, such as members of ACTEM, to leverage their experience with companies with whom they have worked.

Scott Nason, Director of technology at Bonny Eagle, the largest school administrative district in Maine, has done several device refreshes and sellbacks over the past five years. "When we first decided to sell back devices, there weren't that many options because the industry was so new," said Nason. "We did an online search and selected a company, which worked out okay, but we really had nothing to compare it to." Today, Nason says he gets as many as four emails a week from trade-in companies looking to buy devices. With his last sell back, Nason sought the recommendation of his Apple rep and peers. "Most school districts have traded in devices by now, so there are a lot of people who can be helpful in selecting a sellback partner," said Nason. "If you talk with enough colleagues and peers you can draw your own conclusions." If you can't talk with peers, ask for references and call them. A good sellback company should be able to provide you 25 or more references.

In addition to networking with peers, there are a number of other ways to make a confident selection.

### RESEARCH WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE BID PRICE
Some trade-in companies will bid high to win the business, and then will not pay out the full amount or deliver the services you were expecting. Ask for a detailed grading scale, and look for hidden deductions, costs, and other items that may result in a lower payout. Ask peers how close their payout was to the quote price. Also, determine what is included in the quote, such as free pick up or shipping, sorting, asset tag removal, and hard drive erasure.

### LOOK BEYOND PRICE
It can be tempting to simply rank trade-in companies by price, but that only tells part of the story.

Peter Robinson, technology director at Auburn School Department in Maine, solicited information and quotes from five different companies for his last sellback. One company sent an expert out to do a pre-assessment of the schools' devices, and then based the quote on the information gathered during that visit. "Their quote wasn't the highest and it wasn't the lowest, and that wasn't a bad thing," said Robinson. "We felt the high quote was unrealistic and the low quote was really low. We were impressed that the sellback company we eventually chose was trying to do the right thing and guaranteed the price they quoted."

Nason agrees, adding that transparency is paramount. "You can get a feel for a trade-in company by how transparent and proactive they are. A good company will guide you through the process." It's also smart to check out a trade-in company's finances to make sure they haven't defaulted on transactions, and that you will be paid promptly for your devices.

### SEEK A COMPANY THAT'S FLEXIBLE AND CREATIVE
No two school districts are the same, so you shouldn't be treated like a commodity. Look for a sellback company that gets creative with challenges and

works to meet your specific needs.

For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic, some schools were concerned about how to safely take back devices from students. Second Life Mac developed a Touchless Trade-in automated drive-through device drop off program that allows students and administrators to maintain social distancing and doesn't require schools to handle any devices. The process is based on a proprietary QR code that links the student to the device being traded in. Also, ensure the company you choose is able to handle your project. Big or small, you want to know your trade-in is important and that the company can handle your devices safely and securely.

## DON'T FORGET SECURITY

Some trade in vendors will broker your devices and sell them to another company for refurbishing. This becomes a problem if data on the devices isn't properly erased, or if unlocked devices are sold and new owners start contacting the school for help. Likewise, it is important to ask if the vendor employs temporary workers in sensitive positions, including device pick up and refurbishing, which are parts of the process where data can be compromised. The right sellback partner can give you confidence that your refresh will go smoothly. A little due diligence in your selection will ensure you find a partner you can count on.

*About the author: Megan Finnegan-Ratliff is director of procurement at Second Life Mac. She can be reached at megan@secondlifemac.com*

SecondLifeMac
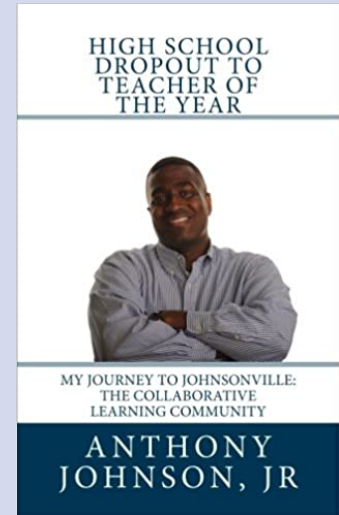
ACTEM 2020 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Anthony hated school as a child. He threw chairs in classrooms. He fought with students and teachers. He failed fourth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade and ninth grade before being kicked out during his second attempt at freshman year. While asking him to leave school, the principal told Anthony that he'd be better off getting his GED and learning a trade.
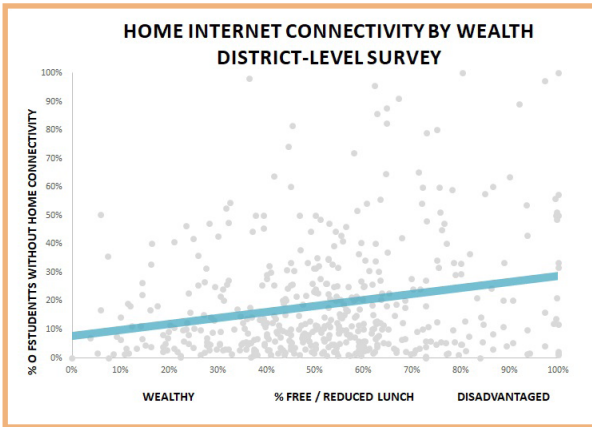
# *Digital Wish survey of frontline educators reveals double digit gaps in at-home connectivity and computing device access for K-12 students*

Nonprofit Digital Wish Supports Educators in Solving Education Technology Shortfalls

**May 7, 2020, MILTON, Delaware** - According to a new survey conducted by Digital Wish, 19% of students nationwide do not have internet connectivity at home and 21% do not own a computing device, impacting their ability to adequately participate in remote learning while schools are closed due to COVID-19.



The COVID-19 pandemic is revealing the dramatic educational equity gap between the "haves" and "have nots," and a mosaic of stories have emerged from the front lines. Since COVID-19 struck, nearly all schools have closed down nationwide. Based on the survey results, an estimated 10.6 million students lack Internet access and close to 12 million students lack a computing device, leaving them isolated and left behind from any effective distance learning.

The survey data reveals a large disparity in the needs of school districts based on wealth and geography. Rural and Urban schools are showing higher rates of disconnected students than suburban. Districts with higher participation in free or reduced lunch programs who often have higher minority representation, are more frequently fighting for devices and connectivity. One school administrator lamented "We have received an overwhelming number of phone calls and emails from

parents asking for devices. Ninety percent of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch. We cannot continue education at home if we don't have devices and Internet for our lowest-income families."

Digital Wish has experienced dramatic increases in demand for its hotspot donations and subsidized internet programs for schools. According to Executive Director Heather Chirtea, "We've seen more demand from educators for internet hotspots in the last 30 days than we've seen in the entire previous year".

The CARES Act included $1 .5 billion for K-12 education, with distance learning one of many eligible uses. Heather Chirtea said: "Digital Wish believes that the CARES Act will probably not be enough to fully address the gaps in connectivity and computers identified by our survey. This nation needs dedicated educational technology funding that will equip those millions of displaced students with hotspots, connectivity, and computing devices so that they can continue their education."

Full survey results are available at: http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/ digitalwish/covid_stimulus

Please contact Digital Wish if you need interviews or quotes with attribution. Members of the press are invited to circulate the findings and we have educators who are willing to be interviewed. Contact: Heather Chirtea, Executive Director, Digital Wish, (802) 79- 000, heather@digitalwish.org

**HOME INTERNET COVERAGE**
**DISTRICT-LEVEL SURVEY**

19%

81%

- STUDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET
- STUDENTS WITH INTERNET

**STUDENTS WITHOUT HOME CONNECTIVITY**
**BY LOCALE**
**DISTRICT-LEVEL SURVEY**

| URBAN | RURAL | SUBURBAN/TOWN |
|-------|-------|---------------|
| 23%   | 19%   | 14%           |

## ABOUT DIGITAL WISH

Digital Wish is a 501c- nonprofit on a mission to solve technology shortfalls in education. Every child deserves a technology-rich education to provide them with the skills necessary to thrive in the global economy. Digital Wish partners with technology providers to distribute free or reduced-cost educational technology such as refurbished laptops, tablets and internet "hotspots" to schools and teachers. Digital Wish manages a community of 64k educators in the US, assisting them with their technology needs through lesson plans, fundraiser campaigns for their "technology wishes" and access to affordable educational technology used in the classroom. Since its inception in 2006, Digital Wish has granted over 1,000 technology wishes to educators worth over $17 illion, and administered grants together with Verizon, Dell, otorola, Henderson Foundation, and Microsoft. For more information, please visit www.digitalwish.org.

## METHODOLOGY

Digital Wish conducted an online survey from April 1 to 19, 2020 asking U.S. school administrators and technology educators on the front lines to report their data on student connectivity and to share their stories. All data is voluntarily self-reported by educational leaders who are contending with disruptive COVID-19 changes. In partnership with the analyst team at EducationSuperHighway.org we confirmed the validity of the data as follows:
- We confirmed the sample is representative
- We cleaned the sample dataset.
- We confirmed the reasonableness for metrics collected

For more information, see the "Survey ethodology" section on the survey results page here: http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/covid_stimulus

Digital Wish is a 501c(3) non-profit on a mission to solve technology shortfalls in education.
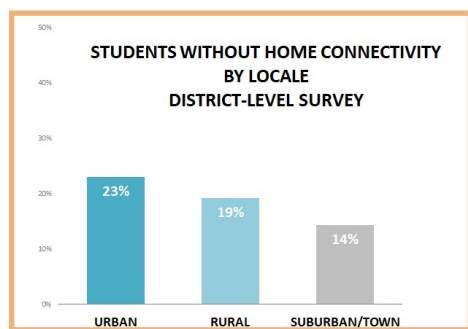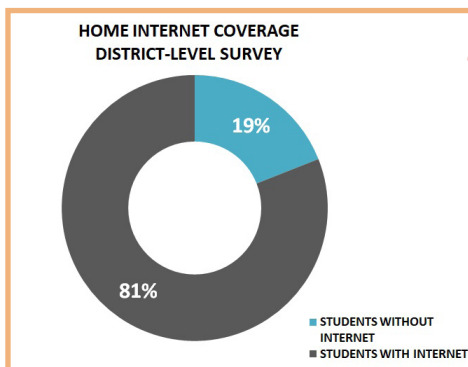
## BIG DEAL MEDIA

**B**ig Deal Media saves educators hours of research and thousands of dollars while identifying top-quality resources and OERs for schools and classrooms. It is a content-rich collection of trusted print and electronic publications that offer the information and tools K-12 educators need-all vetted through the prism of the curriculum. It consistently delivers wish lists of resources and funding opportunities, and has done so since 1995.

Big Deal Media publications provide timely, relevant, and reliable resources in a rapidly changing educational environment, created with insight and attention to detail by seasoned educational publishing professionals and practicing K-12 educators.

Check it out at https://www. bigdealbook.com and sign up for their K-12 Technology newsletter.

## VENDOR PARTNER OFFERINGS

The following vendors have a partnership with ACTEM and offer their products or services at discounts for Maine Schools. *Contact vendors directly when ordering:*

**BrainPOP |** ACTEM Member Schools & Districts can subscribe to BrainPOP and Save Up to 20%.w

**CDW-G |** CDWG offers discount pricing & FREE shipping on orders to ACTEM Institutional members.

**Connection |** Connection is pleased to partner with ACTEM and extend discounted pricing on technology products. Connection has a special purchasing portal for ACTEM institutional members.

> **Portal Link:** www.govconnection.com/actem

**Eduporium |** Our partnership with Eduporium offers members extra discounts on all their products. An online portal provides a link to the many educational tools, customize tech bundles and activities for students.

> **Portal Link:** https://www.eduporium.com/actem

**Explore Learning |** All Maine Schools receive a 10% discount on all Gizmos, Reflex and Science4Us orders. Contact Brandon Nash at 866-882-4141 x357 or brandon.nash@explorelearning.com

**Impero |** Impero is a cross-platform software solution, combining a suite of features into one tool for a school's network management, classroom management and online safety needs.

**Lightspeed Technologies |** Dstricts with ACTEM Institutional Membership are eligible for discounts of 22% off Lightspeed brand classroom audio technology.

**Neverware |** With Cloudready, you can get the speed, simplicity, and security of Chromebooks on nearly any PC or Mac, up to 13 years old. Contact Sean Terry at sterry@neverware.com or 646-880-3597 to get started.

**Newsela |** ACTEM Member Schools & Districts can subscribe to Newsela and Save between 5-25% on Newsela PRO, Powerwords, and Collections!

**Teach Wonder |** ACTEM has partnered with Wonder Workshop to help bring affordable training and resources to Maine's dedicated educators.

**TEQ Online PD |** ACTEM member schools & districts can subscribe to TEQ PD Online and save 25% on a $99 per teacher subscription. Contact Christian Roberts at 877-455-9369 x3165 or email christianroberts@teq.com

**Vocabulary Spelling City |** A game-based website and app that can supplement your core literacy curriculum, saves time streamlines data improves performance.

# actem PURCHASING
## CONSORTIUM FOR MAINE SCHOOLS

Maine Schools receive discounted educational pricing on the products and services listed here for ACTEM institutional members. The purchasing Consortium offers significant price savings on popular software titles from Adobe, Microsoft, Sophos and many other vendors. ACTEM looks to partner with vendors that can offer better pricing for Maine schools and also offer something in return to assist us with our mission. Contact the ACTEM office for these offerings:

## ACTEM OFFERINGS

**Microsoft |** ACTEM has agreements with Microsoft for Select Plus (perpetual) and Microsoft EES - Enrollment for Educational Solutions (subscription) licensing.

> **Select Plus** - Districts register under ACTEM's agreement and are able to purchase software at educational volume license pricing.

> **Enrollment for Educational Solutions (EES)** is subscription licensing based on a people count (FTE's) in a school or district ACTEM offers pricing at the 3,000 FTE level for all schools.

**Adobe |** ACTEM offers Maine Schools and staff a limited number of perpetual (CLP) along with Adobe Creative Cloud (VIP) licensing.

> **Adobe's Cumulative Licensing Program (CLP)** offers perpetual licensing for Acrobat Professional, PhotoShop Elements and Premiere Elements.

> **Adobe's Value Incentive Plan (VIP)** is a subscription licensing program that offers a single app, all apps and site licensing options.

**Sophos |** Security software and hardware, providing endpoint, encryption, email, web, mobile and network security as well as Unified Threat Management products.

**Filemaker |** FileMaker Pro is an easy-to-use cross-platform relational database software application.

**Deep Freeze |** Software that preserves your computer configuration. Any changes – either malicious or unintentional – are reversed on reboot.

**Kaspersky |** Antivirus & Internet security software offers premium protection against viruses, malware, spam & other threats for your home or business.

**LanSchool |** Classroom management software that is used by schools to monitor students' activity in a digital classroom.

**Parallels |** Software for Mac that allows you to seamlessly run both Windows and MacOS applications side-by-side without rebooting.

**Rosetta Stone |** An online subscription platform to learn a foreign language. ACTEM consolidates a group purchase to allow better pricing for all Maine schools.

**Kajeet |** Purchase via ACTEM and receive 5% off the Kajeet Education Broadband solution (includes hardware, wireless services, filters and management portal).

**MacBook Batteries & Power Adapters |** Educational pricing on aftermarket batteries & power adapters for MLTI white Macbooks.
**Memory & SSD Drives |** ACTEM has partnered with Data Memory Systems to offer discounted pricing on memory and SSD drives for MLTI white Macbooks.

**MacBook Shells & Cases |** ACTEM offers discounted pricing on protective cases/shells from Max Cases & Griffin Technology.

**Cyber Acoustics |** ACTEM has partnered with Cyber Acoustics to offer special pricing on headsets for iPads.

**CONTACT US for quotes or more information:** ACTEM Executive Director, PO Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038
Email: director@actem.org | Phone: 207-222-4353, (Toll Free) 866-99-ACTEM | Fax: 207-222-2057
*Check the ACTEM website for more information:* http://www.actem.org/PURCHASING

# How YouTube Star John Green Thinks About his Educational Videos

*By Jeffrey R. Young, the higher education editor at EdSurge and the producer and co-host of the EdSurge Podcast. April 28, 2020*

In this time of pandemic, when schools and colleges have shifted teaching online, more teachers find themselves making videos for their students, who in turn are seeking out such resources on their own. John Green is one of the most famous YouTubers, having built a following by making videos on the platform since 2012. He and his brother, Hank, have made educational videos under the banner of Crash Course. It has grown into a library of more than 1,200 explainer videos, many of which have received more than a
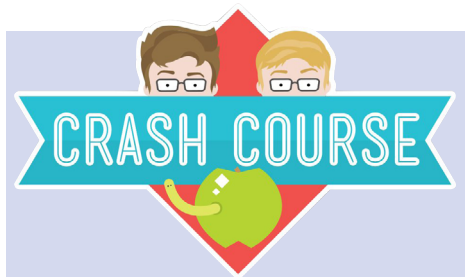
## Review of the Crash Course - Navigating Digital Information

Crash Course is an educational YouTube channel that covers a ton of different subjects. Many teachers and homeschool parents use the series in their classrooms because it is full of so many great learning opportunities.

After hearing about John Green and the Crash Course YouTube channel in the EdSurge article that appears in this issue of the ACTEM newsletter, I decided to check out one of their courses. I viewed the Crash Course on Navigating Digital Information and found it interesting, informative and included many practical tips to evaluate the accuracy of information online. The internet is full of information, a lot of it can be notably wrong. This course provides you with the skills to separate the good stuff from the inaccurate, and browse the internet with confidence.

The Navigating Digital Information Crash Course was developed with partnerships with MediaWise, The Poynter Institute, and The Stanford History Education Group. The course provides practical, hands-on skills to evaluate the information on the Internet. In the 10 episodes series (each episode is 12-15 minutes in length), John Green will teach you how to navigate the internet!

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Examine information using the same skills and questions as fact-checkers
- Read laterally to learn more about the authority and perspective of sources
- Evaluate different types of evidence, from videos to infographics
- Understand how search engines and social media feeds work
- Break bad internet habits like impatience and passivity, and build better ones

*Check out the Crash Couse YouTube Chanel and all the many course offerings at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse*

# Maine DOE Newsroom

## 2020 COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

**Androscoggin:** Nicole Sautter, Philip W. Sugg Middle School, Lisbon

**Aroostook:** Jocelyn Saucier, Fort Kent Community High School, Fort Kent

**Cumberland:** Cindy Soule, Riverton Elementary, Portland

**Franklin:** Melissa Hoisington, Kingfield Elementary School, Kingfield

**Hancock:** Kathryn Meyer, Mount Desert Island High School, Bar Harbor

**Kennebec:** Lindsay Mahoney, Messalonskee Middle School, Oakland

**Knox:** Alison Babb-Brott, St. George School, St. George

**Lincoln:** Heather Webster, Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro

**Oxford:** Tonya Prentice, Woodstock Elementary School, Bryant Pond

**Penobscot:** Kristy Dube, Fourteenth Street School, Bangor

**Piscataquis:** Jessica Gregory, Piscataquis Community Secondary School, Guilford

**Sagadahoc:** Bree Candland, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham

**Somerset:** Jenny France, Somerset Career and Technical Center, Skowhegan

**Waldo:** Sara Pendleton, Captain Albert Stevens School, Belfast

**Washington:** Debra Carver, Jonesport-Beals High School, Jonesport

**York:** Robert Westerberg, York High School, York

## 2020 COUNTY TEACHERS OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED IN VIRTUAL CEREMONY

Teachers from all 16 of Maine's counties were honored today in a virtual announcement that was broadcast live on the Maine Department of Education Facebook Page. Here is a direct link to view ceremony. The Maine County Teacher of the Year announcement is held annually in the spring to honor the teachers selected from nominations for Maine Teacher of the Year from each county. The County Teachers of the Year are the finalists for Maine Teacher of the Year, an honor awarded each year to one teacher in Maine.

The educators were each nominated by a member of their community for their exemplary service in education, and dedication to their students. They were selected by a distinguished panel of teachers, principals and business community members from a pool of hundreds of other nominated teachers in their communities.

During the ceremony, teachers were honored by Maine Department of Education Commissioner, Pender Makin; Executive Director of Educate Maine, Jason Judd; State Board of Education member, Martha Harris; 2018 Maine Teacher of the Year, Kaitlin Young; and 2020 Maine Teacher of the Year, Heather Whitaker.

As ambassadors for teachers, students, and quality education in Maine, the Maine County Teachers of the Year are available to make presentations to local and regional organizations. Throughout the summer, they will continue to participate in an intensive State Teacher of the Year selection process.

The Maine Teacher of the Year is a program of the Maine Department of Education, administered and partnered by Educate Maine, a business-led organization working to ensure Maine's students and workers are the best educated and highly skilled in the world.  For more information contact Rachel Paling (Maine DOE) at rachel.paling@maine.gov or Dolly Sullivan (Educate Maine) at dolly@educatemaine.org.

## Mills Administration Secures WiFi & Learning Devices for 100 Percent of Maine Students Reporting a Need In Face of COVID-19's Impacts on Schools

AUGUSTA – Governor Janet Mills and Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin announced today that the Maine Department of Education has secured internet access and devices to facilitate at home learning for 100 percent of Maine school children for whom there was a reported need. The success comes as Maine educators have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and creativity in response to the suspension of classroom-based instruction as a result of COVID-19, providing invaluable and meaningful personal connection and assurance to students in a time of great uncertainty. However, it is still difficult for educators to offer equitable online learning opportunities without individual student internet access.

Through a combined effort with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, ConnectME, and business and philanthropic entities, the Maine Department of Education (Maine DOE) has acquired 14,494 service contracts through three different service providers, nearly all of which are for WiFi-enabled Samsung Galaxy Tablets that can be used as learning tools and hotspots or hotspots only. Through one of the service providers, DOE was also able to order MiFi, a wireless router that acts as a mobile WiFi hotspot, to fulfill internet-only needs. To fulfill the device only needs, Maine DOE was able to order 7,450 Chromebooks.

"The suspension of classroom-based instruction because of the Pandemic has brought on new challenges and we should all be grateful for how Maine's educators have adapted to provide a quality education to our children," said Governor Mills. "It is our responsibility to ensure that Maine's teachers, and all students, have the tools they need to stay connected during these unprecedented times. These new connections will allow Maine students to do just that and stay engaged remotely with their school no matter where they live."

All schools who indicated a need are receiving the information and devices directly from the vendors. Need was assessed by the Department of Education through several surveys of all traditional and non-traditional public schools and private schools who serve public students to understand the connectivity needs statewide. Of the 21,845 students statewide lacking connectivity, based on data from the 75 percent of schools that responded, 14,494 students needed a wireless contract and 7,351 students needed only a device in order to have equitable access to online learning opportunities.

The need for universal connectivity was identified as the top priority of stakeholders across the state in terms of mitigating the impact from the COVID disruption. Teachers have been struggling to connect with the many students and families who do not have access to the internet. A fourth round of surveys has just been completed for schools to report student connectivity needs, and DOE is working now to fulfill this final round of requests. In addition, the department has reached out to both higher education institutions and adult education programs to determine their student connectivity needs.

"This pandemic and the educational disruption brought to light the extreme inequities that exist across our state," said Commissioner Makin. "The emergency provision of connectivity to all students allows for educational continuity, and I am grateful to our team for their strategic and efficient execution of this enormous effort."

The Administration utilized federal funds, including a portion of Maine's $9.3 million allocation from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, which was allocated through the federal CARES Act, as well as philanthropic donations, to purchase the devices and wireless service contracts to meet the identified need for universal connectivity for Maine students.

FMI: contact Kelli Deveaux, Director of Communications at kelli.deveaux@maine.gov

## YouTube Star John Green

million views each and are assigned in schools and colleges around the world.

Crash Course tackles weighty subjects like European history and organic chemistry. But it does so with wit and humor, and it has the snappy pace that feels more like an episode of the Simpsons than the typical classroom lecture. Green exudes an infectious curiosity that makes viewers want to keep learning, even if it's on a topic they didn't even know they were interested in.

Listen to this week's episode on Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, Stitcher, Google Play Music, wherever you listen to podcasts, or use the player below. Or read a short recap here: https://soundcloud.com/edsurge

Green had no prior background in education, and he doesn't see himself as a teacher at all.

"I usually say I work in educational videos, and that's how I think of that work," he said. "Teaching is something that happens between students and a teacher. I think the kind of one-way street that is necessitated by educational video, it just isn't teaching. It's valuable and it's important. But it can never replace teaching. It can never replace the classroom."

In fact, when Green and his brother created Crash Course back in 2011, they were purposely not trying to be part of the trend du jour at the time, which was to build video-based substitutes for classroom courses. "We wanted to make something that could maybe reinforce some of the learnings from class, or maybe introduce some of the ideas that will then be discussed in greater detail in class," Green recalls.

His advice for instructors suddenly making videos or teaching online? "Don't be afraid of the medium," he says. To that he adds: "Watch some good YouTubers. Watch the people who have found a way to build big audiences."

The unedited version of this article originally appeared in EdSurge (https://bit.ly/EdSurge-YouTube), which is an initiative of ISTE. You can subscribe to the free weekly EdSurge newsletters here: https://bit.ly/Ed-Surge-Subscribe

# UPCOMING EVENTS: professional development

**June 22** Apple Worldwide Developers Conference  Virtual Conference.

**August 4-6** Maine Summer Technology Institute 2020. Virtual Conference.

**July 11-14** Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) National Conference Virtual Conference.

**October 14-15**-- MassCUE 2020 Conference Virtual Conference.

**October 20-21 actem 2020** Education Technology Conference, Civic Center, Augusta, ME. Virtual Conference.

**Maine Educators**
Become an Apple Teacher - http://www.apple.com/education/teachers

**Google Teacher Certifications** https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/certification

Certified
**Google**
Educator

ACTEM Keynote Speakers

All 12 books →

**MLTI Professional Development**

**Apple Solutions:** http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml
**HP Solution:** http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml

**ISTE 20 ANAHEIM NOV 28 - DEC 1**

**ACTEM OverDrive PD Library** *Free with your ACTEM membership!* https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202974

**Tech Sherpas** http://www.techsherpas.org/ Tuesday Tuesday 3pm

**#EdChatME** https://twitter.com/hashtag/edchatme Mondays 8:30-9:30pm