



Governor's Office of Rural Broadband

Broadband for Unserved
Students - Update

State Board of Education



CHANGING
Maryland
for the Better

Governor's Office of Rural Broadband

- Broadband Education Access Emergency Assistance Program – March 2021
 - Provided funding to assist school districts and libraries to provide broadband access to students



- Governor provided grant funding to School Districts to provide broadband access to their unserved students for the 2020-2021 Academic Year
 - \$5 Million for Urban student assistance
 - \$5 Million for Rural student assistance

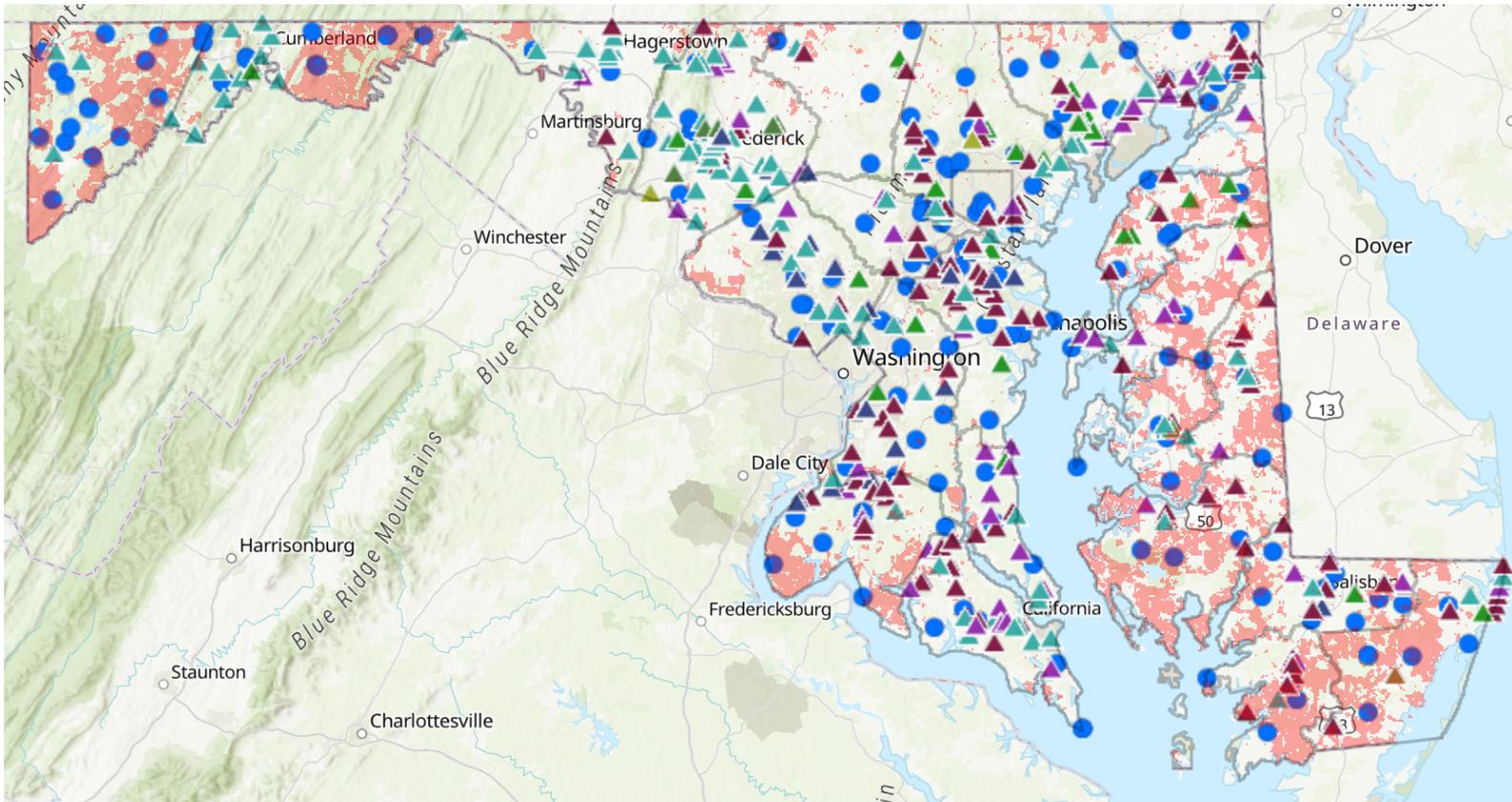


- 22 of 24 School Districts Participated
 - 100% of grant funding requested was provided
 - 64,924 students were provided service
 - \$4,192,356 awarded for urban student support
 - \$4,543,156 awarded for rural student support



- Governor provided \$15 Million to construct a Statewide Wireless Education Network for Rural unserved students
 - Utilizing state and local jurisdictionally owned towers and other vertical assets
 - Grant awarded to Collaborative Solutions Maryland, Inc.
 - 501(c)3 Corporation established by USM to provide innovative solutions to the education community





🕒 March 23, 2021



CHANGING
Maryland
for the Better

Governor's Office of Rural Broadband

- How will it work
 - State to pay for the construction
 - CSM to own, operate and maintain the network.
 - School Districts will become members of CSM and will have the opportunity to participate in the governance of CSM.



- How will this work
 - School Districts to set formula for shared operating costs
 - Feasibility Study will provide guidance on long term costs associated with the network
 - It is anticipated that E-Rate funds can be used for student connectivity
 - School Districts to set access parameters including content filters, firewalls, etc.



- Schedule

- Grant agreement with CSM – complete
- Interagency cooperative agreement with State Agencies – complete
- RFP for feasibility and network design services – complete
 - Contract with selected design firm being negotiated
 - Student and staff location information requested from Districts – ongoing, 7 of 24 Districts have provided the information
- Feasibility study – May 2021
- Construction to start – July 2021



Presented By:
Kenrick (Rick) M. Gordon, P.E.
Director

Questions



CHANGING
Maryland
for the Better

Governor's Office of Rural Broadband