

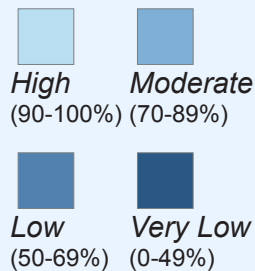
An Infographic From Regional Educational Laboratory Central at IES

To stop the spread of COVID-19, schools across the country have had to rely on remote learning instead of in-person classes. The shift to remote learning continues to shed further light on the digital divide for students who lack reliable access to the Internet and learning resources.

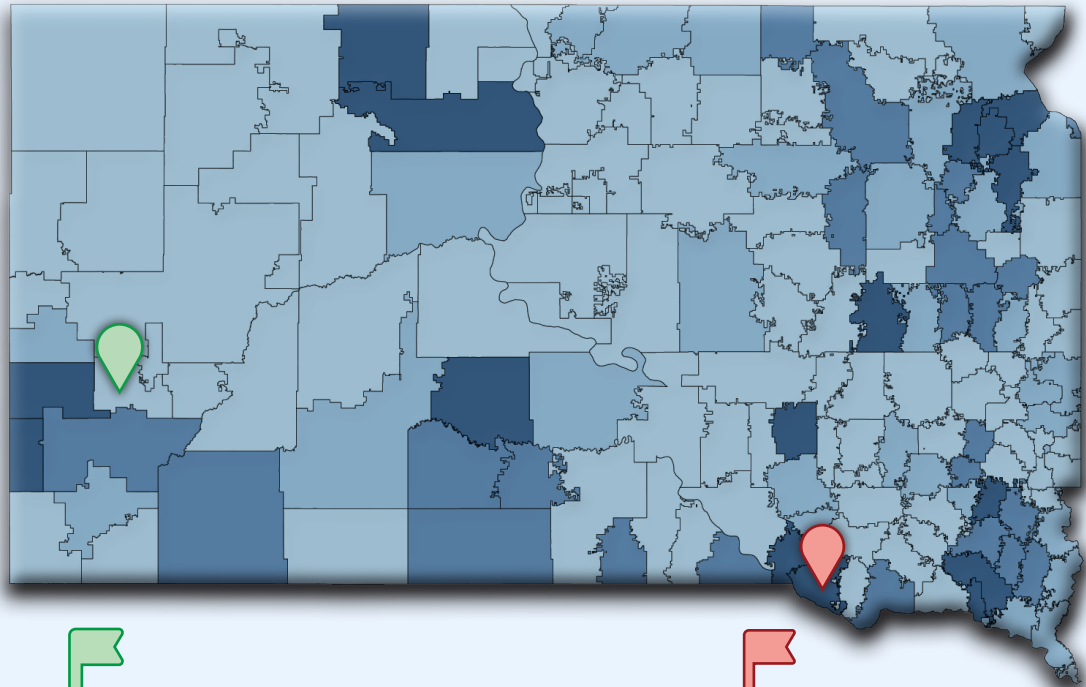
Residential Internet Connectivity Profile: South Dakota

Level of Broadband Internet Connectivity

Percentage of individuals age 5–19 with broadband Internet within a school district boundary



Across the state of South Dakota, 11.1% of the 176,000 individuals age 5–19, or approximately 17,820 individuals, don't have broadband Internet at home.



Comparison of Select Districts

Rapid City School District

99.2% of the 18,500 individuals age 5–19 within the school district boundary have broadband Internet.

Wagner School District

2.8% of the 1,180 individuals age 5–19 within the school district boundary have broadband Internet.

Residential Internet Connectivity: Rural Districts



All city and suburban districts in South Dakota have *high* levels of broadband Internet connectivity, but only 51.2% of the 125 rural districts in South Dakota have *high* levels of connectivity, and many have *low* or *very low* levels.



High: 51.2%



Moderate: 17.6%



Low: 18.4%



Very Low: 12.8%

Percentage of students with broadband Internet is defined as the population age 5 to 19 within a school district boundary with Internet speeds greater than 25 Mbps, divided by the total population age 5 to 19 in that district.

Population data were calculated from the American Community Survey (2014–2018 five-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>), and broadband data were retrieved from the Federal Communications Commission Form 477 database from June 2019, <https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/form-477-resources>.

Urban-centric locale data are based on the National Center for Education Statistics locale framework, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/docs/LOCALE_CLASSIFICATIONS.pdf.

For an additional interactive map, visit <https://maps.ruralopportunitymap.us/broadband-access-map>.