



California Digital Divide Innovation Challenge

Reflections

To ensure our families and caregivers continue to stay connected to vital services, build skills, and are empowered to take an active role in their student's education, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) has partnered with The CDE's California Digital Divide Innovation Challenge candidate Lauren Batinich Founder and CEO of Mobile Telecom Management to test her solutions here in the Central Valley.

Upon our first meeting, Lauren supplied background information on her agency, her solutions as well as shared the collected data based on previous test in other regions of California. After our initial review and consultation of what is expected from each participating family, PIQE reached out to our families in areas most effected by the lack of connectivity. These families residing in rural areas of Central Valley – Caruthers, Ceres, and Madera – who on occasion would leave their homes to connect at their local Starbucks/McDonalds, community centers with internet and device rentals, or return to their office of employment.

After our initial consultation/review was completed, packages including devices, instructions on how to connect, track data connectivity and uploading/streaming strength were provided to each family. They were given a Franklin T-9, Inseego M2000, and Inseego Sykus 160 device and run a speed test for each periodically over the course of 24 to 48 hours. The families then recorded the data on a spreadsheet to be sent back for review. These units, of which two specifically intended for Urban/Suburban areas and one for Rural, would eventually include security and manage the ongoing support to partnered school districts.

Upon reviewing the test results, Lauren recommended both the Franklin T-9 and the Inseego M2000 as connectivity solutions for their regions. This partnership has not only supported our families' ability to understand their regions and best practices for connectivity, but also provided a hands-on experience to support their families' opportunities of growth, access to resources, and ultimately an understanding that our families must be part of the solution.

In partnership,

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