



*Irvington Community Schools  
Office of the Director of IT  
5751 University Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46219*

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To Whom This May Concern:

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I believe that more learning happens after 3 p.m. and before 8 a.m. – the typical school day – than we realize. For Irvington Community Schools, that meant exploring a 1:1 computer program that would require all students to have the appropriate equipment and Internet access. When I first started evaluating what was involved in moving to such a platform, I realized that we would have to offer a solution that would allow for equal access for all students. We would therefore need to address the “digital divide” that exists among the nearly 900 families who have students in our three schools in grades K-12. However, what I didn’t realize was that I would first have to address the digital divide that existed among our teachers.

I discovered that quite a few of our teachers did not have Internet access at home, so they had to stay at school, sometimes late into the night, to prepare lesson plans, create content for curriculum, and input grades. Although they were doing what they needed to do to keep up with their work, it was at a significant cost to their personal life. We believe that well-rested and content teachers are better teachers. So we needed to find a way in which they could do their work, if needed, remotely from home. With Mobile Citizen’s offering, we’ve been able to do just that. Having access at home was one thing; what our teachers realized they could do with the Internet was entirely another.

They began to develop innovative curriculum in anticipation of our future 1:1 program, leveraging their Internet access – which was also mobile – in the classrooms to engage students in project-based learning. In these instances, teachers encouraged student-led classrooms in which students were tasked with becoming knowledgeable about a specific topic. The students relied on Internet access for the research and delivery of their assigned topic, which is now a common practice. One of the many features our learning management system gives teachers is the ability to make video comments on assignments that require a significant amount of data. Both our teachers and our students love this feature. Being able to tell a student via video that he/she did a great job on a project versus putting it in an email or writing it on an

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assignment has proven to be a powerful teaching method and engagement tool. Since this program requires so much data, we unfortunately wouldn't be able to continue it if our bandwidth was restricted.

You can see that we are working to create an atmosphere where connectivity is available to as many people as possible in the largest window of time, and that requires unlimited, unfettered, reliable access. The technology is available and there is not a good reason we should be depriving our students and teachers the access to success.

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