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Our school, Explore Knowledge Academy, provides personalized learning through educational discovery for more than 800 K-12 students in the Las Vegas area. Our curriculum is built around a 1:1 computer program and could not function without robust Internet capabilities. Simply put, without unlimited high-speed broadband, our educational program would be useless.

Explore Knowledge Academy added broadband Internet from Mobile Citizen as a supplement to our existing Wi-Fi network, which did not have the capacity we needed to support our innovative program. Before introducing broadband Internet, more than half of our students would get knocked offline at peak usage times. This was not only unacceptable for a 1:1, online-based curriculum such as ours, it was also detrimental particularly during assessment periods. During testing periods when all students were online, losing Internet access meant interrupted testing for individual students and the potential for negative impacts to testing scores for our individuals and school.

We've made a lot of changes in the last three years, the biggest of which is adding broadband Internet to support our 1:1 program. We've seen our test scores increase steadily since this program started, and although those results can certainly be attributed to a variety of factors, we believe our 1:1: program plays a significant role. If we lost the ability to provide high-speed broadband to our students, it would be like reverting back to before we had Mobile Citizen in the first place.

Additionally, our teachers rely heavily on video streaming, particularly for the younger grades. If our capabilities were restricted, it would most certainly put our youngest students at a disadvantage.

We even leverage the Internet beyond the classroom to facilitate the parent-student pickup process outside our school where Internet isn't available. Every day students line up for blocks to pick up their children, a process that is frustrating and potentially unsafe if not managed properly. Our school staff use the Internet to communicate with teachers and students to anticipate next in line parents so we can keep the process going as smoothly as possible.

As you can see, we pack a lot of learning into a typical day and are therefore dependent on our laptops and Internet technology for things to go smoothly. If the Internet is slow, so is our process, and that would mean us having to set the laptops aside and go back to the chalkboard. Simply put, we need modern speeds for modern learning.

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Explore Knowledge Academy