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I am a special education teacher at Boulder Preparatory High School in Colorado. The majority of my instruction is delivered and prepared thanks to high-speed mobile Internet. And I know many of our students rely on it for access to math, civics and history courses as well. In fact, many work at night or the weekends to make up classes or for extra credit. And for our low-income students that still don't have Internet at home, this service is extra important.

When I am at school, it is all about the kids. That means that when I am home, it is all about the planning. I am like many of my fellow teachers, a multi-tasker. That means that at any given time, I am online doing paperwork, reviewing and responding to homework, accessing the District site, and researching or preparing videos for instruction. I spend an average of 30 hours per week online preparing. And since everything I do takes bandwidth, I'm concerned that with restricted high-speed Internet access, those hours would double and that would have a negative impact on me, my family and my classroom.

My classroom is what we call a 'flipped classroom'. Rather than me lecturing in class, I produce online lectures from my home, lectures students also download and access online. This allows me to be more hands on in the classroom, something that is particularly important for the students I serve. As an added benefit, students that might be sick or cannot get to school for whatever reason can still access their coursework and not fall behind.

My students and I are so incredibly grateful for what unlimited Internet access allows. Some may take it for granted, but I don't. It is a critical component in my work and in my special needs students' learning.

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