

An Update

on

**MOVING ALL MONTANA'S CHILDREN ACROSS
THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

A Research Study

by

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for

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July 2007

This specific update is the result of a telephone survey conducted during the summer of 2007 with county superintendents, board chairs, or clerks of the twenty-seven school districts who reported in 2006 having either no connectivity or only 56K modem connectivity.

In the 2006 report, four school districts reported having no connectivity. After this year's research, it must be reported that there are five. Please see the new Appendix A. All are schools for Hutterite children and three of the five now do have computers for the children and teacher to use. Still, they all need to have connectivity to the Internet.

Of the remaining 22 school districts which reported having only 56K Dial-Up Modem Connectivity (Note: The 23rd one from last year's report was moved to the no connectivity group.), two districts were dropped. One, Boyd in Carbon County, was annexed to Joliet and the facility closed, and the other, SY School District in Custer County, is non-operating. That leaves 20 school districts. Eight report no change, but ten have moved up to DSL or Satellite, and two more districts are working on getting connectivity. See Appendix B for the 2007 list of School Districts with only 56K dial-up modem connectivity at this time.

It is clear that progress is being made, and it is hoped by this time next year that all Montana School Districts will have "Crossed the Digital Divide" and will be providing their students and teachers with access to the Internet.

Appendix A

Montana Public School Districts without Internet Connectivity in 2007

Knees, School District 59, Choteau County

Mountain View, School District 64, Glacier County

Auchard Creek, School District 27, Lewis and Clark County

Miami, School District 31, Pondera County

Pendroy, School District 62, Teton County

Appendix B

Montana Public School Districts with only 56K Dial-up Modem Connectivity in 2007

Polaris, District 21, Beaverhead County

Spring Creek, District 16J, Custer County

Cottonwood, District 22, Gallatin County

Wolf Creek, District 13, Lewis and Clark County

Sylvanite, District 23, Lincoln County

Cooke City, District 9, Park County

Garrison, District 20, Powell County (working on)

Birney, District 3, Rosebud County

Fishtail, District 13, Stillwater County (working on)

Greycliff, District 16, Sweet Grass County

Appendix C