#### BLUE VALLEY TIMES

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#### Broadband Access Grants are helping K-12 Students

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Approved by County Council in 2020, Northampton County grants for increasing Broadband access are already helping K-12 students with their virtual learning. Northampton County awarded \$100,000 each to school districts in Bethlehem, Easton, Bangor, Northampton and Nazareth and \$50,000 each to Wilson, Saucon Valley and Pen Argyl. Overall, \$650,000 of CARES Act money was directed to help school districts.

Bethlehem Area School District reports that they've purchased 500 T-Mobile hotspots with the funding, supporting 495 students who would otherwise not be able to participate in online learning. Easton Area School District has used its grant to purchase hotspots for home internet access for students, online enrollment software to remove the need for inperson registration and Logitech Crayons for teachers to use during remote instruction.

"This pandemic has been difficult for everyone but especially for K-12 students and their teachers," says Lamont McClure. "Today, equal access to education means equal access to the internet. I'm glad to see our Broadband grants having a positive effect in our communities."

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