**Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism**

Governor's Broadband Development Council Meeting

July 28, 2021

AGENDA
Governor's Broadband Development Council

July 28, 2021
1:00 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Governor's Broadband Development Council (" Council ") members will be meeting via videoconference. Members of the public who would like to attend the meeting may join by videoconference using the following information:

Free Web Link for Videoconference:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjI0ZTEwMTEtODA2Ny00ZTM3LTg1NzMtMzZlNGM1NzZhNjc1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2254cb5da6-c734-4242-bbc2-5c947e85fb2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22bc6eb630-bc65-4377-b472-df8f2396b720%22%7d

Members of the public attending the meeting via the videoconference information provided will be able to hear audio of the meeting and can provide comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The Council will also record the meeting, which will be made available to members of the public.

All agenda items are subject to possible discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Council. Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Council. Presentations may be made by the identified staff or Council member or others as needed.

ITEM

        I. Call to Order

        II. Chair welcome, remarks and roll call

        III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the Council meeting on June 17, 2021 (Tab 1).

        IV. Comments by Comptroller's Office staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same

V. Comments by Texas Education Agency staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 2)

VI. Comments by Council members providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including discussion of potential outline for annual Council report, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 3)

VII. Review, Discussion, Consideration and/or Possible Action on Council Next Steps for Following Meeting(s) - Chairman Sproull

VIII. Comments without Deliberation:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Link to July 28, 2021 Council meeting documents:

https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/governors-broadband-development-council

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting, who may need auxiliary aids or services, or who need assistance in having English translated into Spanish, should contact Philip Rocha at 512-936-0246 at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Personas con discapacidades que asistirán a esta reunión y requieren servicios o instrumentos especiales, o necesitaran traducción al español, por favor de comunicarse con Philip Rocha al 512-936-0246 por lo menos 2 días antes de la reunión para hacer los arreglos necesarios.

Tab 1

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of June 17, 2021 Meeting

Videoconference Meeting

1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

William "Bill" Sproull (Chair), Kirk Petty, Greg Pittman, Jennifer K. Harris, Kenny Scudder, Mike Easley, Steve Johnson, Ph.D., Tom Kim, M.D., Lindsey Lee, Eddie Smith, Judge Marty Lucke, Mayor Frank Moreno,

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Philip Rocha, Fauye Bennett, Joseph Benke

The Governor's Broadband Development Council ("Council") proceeded on posted agenda items in the order as follows:

Agenda Item I.   CALL TO ORDER

Bill Sproull, Chairman of the Governor's Broadband Development Council, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. as a quorum was present online.

Agenda Item II.   CHAIR WELCOME, REMARKS, AND ROLL CALL

Roll was called and members present are listed.

Agenda Item III.   DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON May 20th, 2021

The Council reviewed minutes from the meeting held May 20th, 2021.

ACTION: Kirk Petty made a motion to approve the May 20th meeting minutes. Lindsey Lee seconded the motion to approve the minutes; carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IV.   **COMMENTS REPRESENTATIVE ASHBY'S STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE §490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND OR/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.**

Mr. Messer from Rep. Ashby's office gave an update on the status of broadband legislation in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Messer thanked the Council for their work and spoke to the legislative process in regards to broadband legislation.

Agenda Item V.   **COMMENTS BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX GOV'T CODE §490H.006 INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERING AND / OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME.**

Mr. Bartholome from the FCC shared slides pertaining to emergency broadband benefits. Mr. Bortholome discussed benefits and eligibility for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program.

Agenda Item VI.   **COMMENTS BY TEXAS LONE STAR NETWORK STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX GOV'T CODE §490H.006 INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERING AND / OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME**

Mr. Martin from the Texas Lone Star Network shared slides that provided information about the

organization. TLSN is a group of "telephone companies" and their networks. Mr. Martin shared maps that outlined the fiber backbone of the state.

Agenda Item VII.   **REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND.OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNCIL NEXT STEPS FOR FOLLOWING MEETING(S) – CHAIRMAN SPROUL**

Chairman Sproull suggested that the council meet in late July. Chairman Sproull also asked the council to think about what they would like to go in the next legislative report.

Agenda Item VIII.   **COMMENTS WITHOUT DELIBERATION**

Agenda Item IX.   **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sproull called the meeting to a close at 2:47 PM.

_____   _____

Bill Sproull, Chair   Date

Tab

2

Governor's Broadband Development Council:

An Update on Operation Connectivity

July 28th, 2021

Operation Connectivity is a joint effort between Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and ESC Region 4 to enable long-term **connectivity** for Texas's **5.5 million** public school students through the provision of an **e-learning device** and **reliable internet connection sufficient for learning**.

OPERATION CONNECTIVITY

Operation Connectivity | A Three Phase Initiative

TEACT I: Leveraging Existing Connectivity

TEACT II: New Tech

Operation Connectivity Launch		PHASE 1: BULK PURCHASE & REIMBURSEMENT				PHASE 2: TEA CONNECT TEXAS PROGRAM I DEVELOPPING MAPPING & DRIVING ADOPTION FOR STUDENTS USING EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE				PHASE 3: TEACT II DEVELOPMENT & ADOPTION OF NEW INFRASTUCTURE	
Launch of Operation Connectivity	Initial Taskforce Work & Report	Triage Device Procurement	Device Shipping & Delivery	LMRP*	PPRP**	Mapping of Access & Adoption of HSB Service for Eco Dis Students by LEA	Determine # of TEA Connect Texas (TEACT) Eligible Students	Negotiate Consistent Pricing & T&Cs for LEAs	TEA Connect Texas (TEACT) Launch	TEACT for New Technology: Explore New Broadband Tech	Work with Texas Broadband Office to Secure Funding for Pilot Programs for New Infra-structure and adoption
May '20	June '20 – July '20	July '20 – August '20	Sept '20 – Jan '21	Sept '20 – Dec '20	Nov '20 – Feb '21	**January '21 – March '21**	**Jan '21 – March '21**	**Mar '21 – June '21**	**May '21**	Sept '20 – July '21	TBD
✅	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅	➡️	➡️	➡️	➡️	➡️	🕐

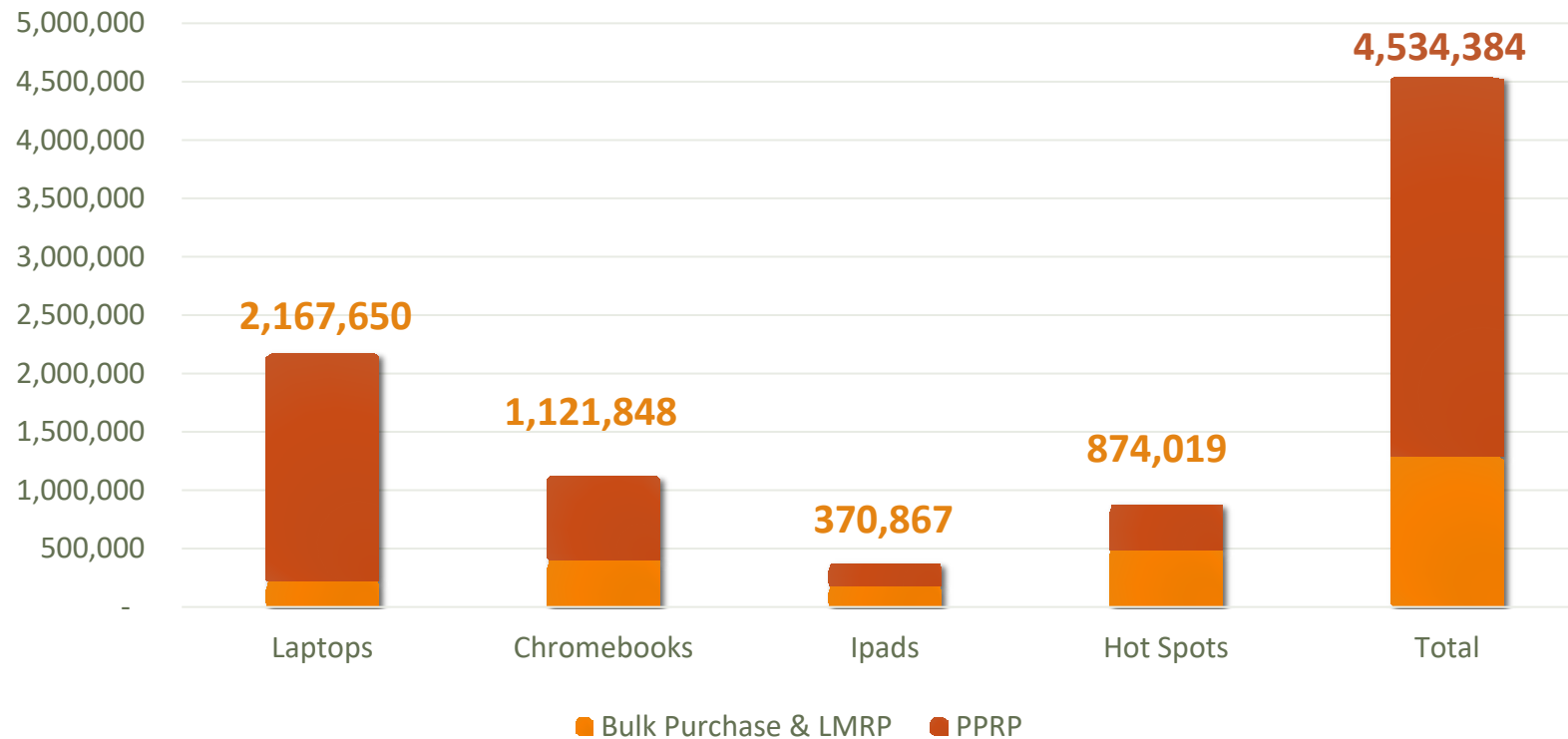| ✅ Completed	➡️ In Process	🕐 Not Yet Started

*Local Match Reimbursement Program
**Prior Purchase Reimbursement Program

Summary Impact of Operation Connectivity Bulk Purchase and Reimbursement Programs To Date Totally **$1 Billion Invested**

# of Devices Acquired Between 05/21/20 – 12/31/21

- 2,167,650 (Laptops)
- 1,121,848 (Chromebooks)
- 370,867 (Ipads)
- 874,019 (Hot Spots)
- 4,534,384 (Total)

Legend: ■ Bulk Purchase & LMRP ■ PPRP

Summary Impact of Operation Connectivity Bulk Purchase and Reimbursement Programs To Date: *LEA Participation*

	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
Total Enrollment	5,454,931	5,454,931	5,454,931
Enrollment of Participating LEAs	4,017,030	4,996,566	4,506,798
Economically Disadvantaged Enrollment of Participating LEAs	2,506,088	2,982,696	2,744,392

# of Participating LEAs	PPRP	Bulk Purchase	Total - Average	% of Total Participating LEAs
Charter	113	126	120	15%
Rural	421	480	451	56%
Suburban	198	179	189	24%
Urban	46	36	41	5%
	778	821	800	100%

Enrollment of Participating # of LEAs	PPRP	Bulk Purchase	Total - Average	% of Participating LEAs by Enrollment
Charter	246,638	280,228	263,433	6%
Rural	584,452	558,487	571,470	13%
Suburban	2,385,580	1,848,138	2,116,859	47%
Urban	1,779,896	1,330,177	1,555,037	35%
	4,996,566	4,017,030	4,506,798	100%

Summary Impact of Operation Connectivity Bulk Purchase and Reimbursement Programs To Date: % of Enrollment Covered by Devices that were Purchased at Participating LEAs

RURAL	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
Hot Spots as % of Enrollment	16%	9%	25%
Hot Spots as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	25%	16%	42%
E learning Devices as % of Enrollment	20%	43%	64%
E learning Devices as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	33%	79%	110%

SUBURBAN	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
Hot Spots as % of Enrollment	10%	8%	18%
Hot Spots as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	18%	14%	32%
E learning Devices as % of Enrollment	18%	56%	79%
E learning Devices as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	32%	102%	142%

CHARTER	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
Hot Spots as % of Enrollment	18%	11%	29%
Hot Spots as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	23%	15%	39%
E learning Devices as % of Enrollment	21%	106%	122%
E learning Devices as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	28%	144%	163%

URBAN	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
Hot Spots as % of Enrollment	12%	7%	18%
Hot Spots as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	18%	11%	27%
E learning Devices as % of Enrollment	22%	57%	84%
E learning Devices as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	32%	86%	125%

	Bulk Purchase	PPRP	Total - Average
HotSpots as % of Enrollment	12%	8%	19%
HotSpots as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	19%	13%	32%
Elearning Devices as % of Enrollment	20%	57%	81%
Elearning Devices as % of Eco Dis Enrollment	32%	96%	133%

Here we have a lot of work to do to close the gap in TX

Here we have closed the gap in TX

What is TEA Connect Texas?

TEACT is a statewide, TEA-led initiative to support LEAs that seek to provide home-based broadband internet access to their students

TEACT **facilitates the acquisition of fixed lines** through bulk purchase at the State level, taking advantage of discounted rates which Region 4 is negotiating on behalf of Texas school systems
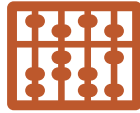
TEACT **facilitates the fixed line installation process** for LEAs by working as a liaison between the LEAs, the ISPs and eligible families to ensure successful and expedited access to service

TEACT provides a robust **implementation and customer support team** for LEAs who want to participate in a home-based broadband roll-out program in their district but who may not have the available personnel or resources to administer such a program themselves

TEACT I: Closing the Connectivity Adoption Gap

Broadband Mapping of Economically Disadvantaged Students by Census Block Group to Identify Adoption Need

Negotiation of an Equitable Pricing Model and Uniform Terms and Conditions for High-Speed Broadband for Students Across the State

Implementation of a Program for the Bulk Acquisition of Fixed Internet "Lines" on Behalf of LEAs that Leverages and Facilitates Access to Federal Programs Such as ECF and EBB
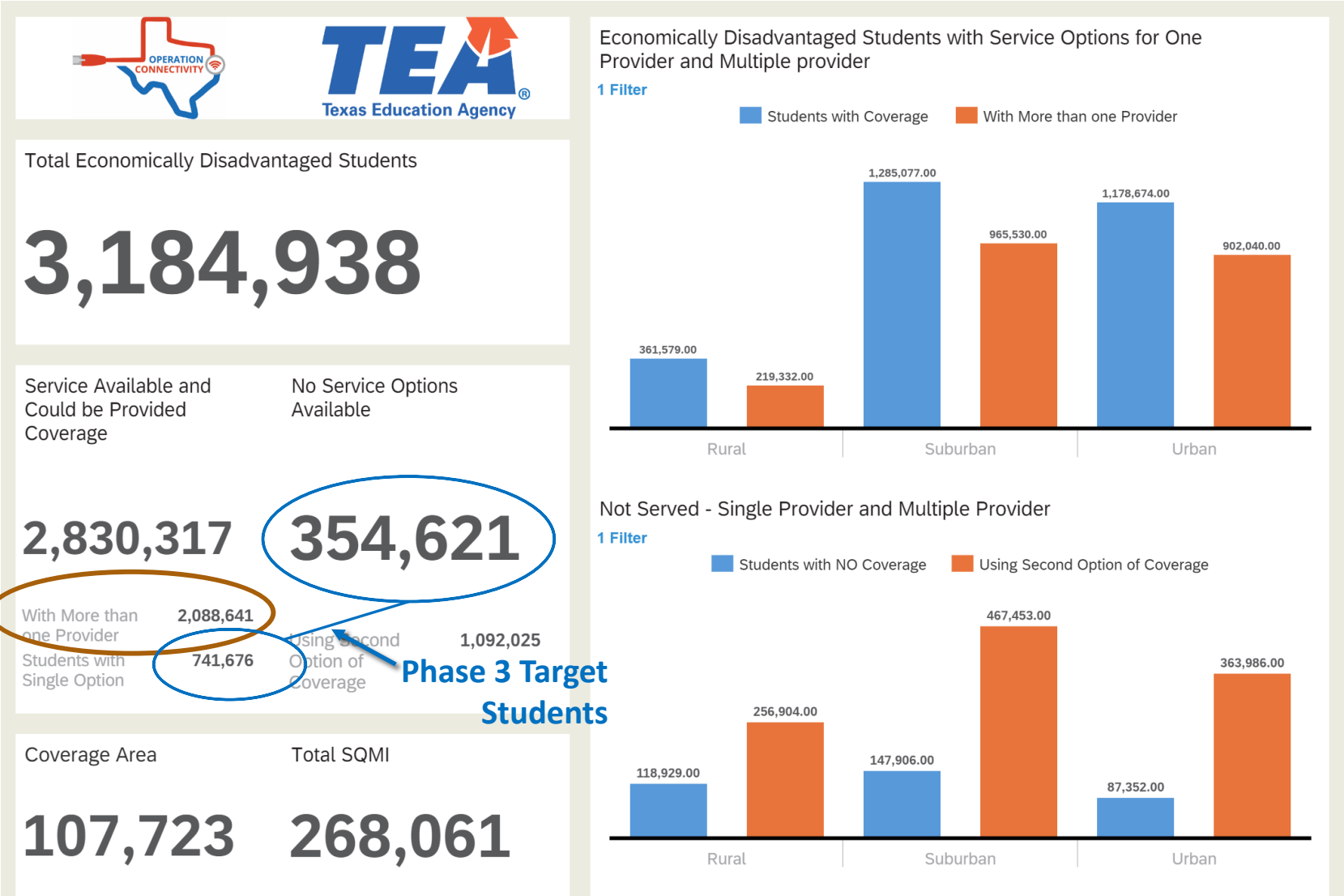
Development of an Ongoing Customer Support Center for LEAs Regarding the Implementation of Ongoing Connectivity Programs in Their Districts and Development of Supporting Long-Range Tech Plans
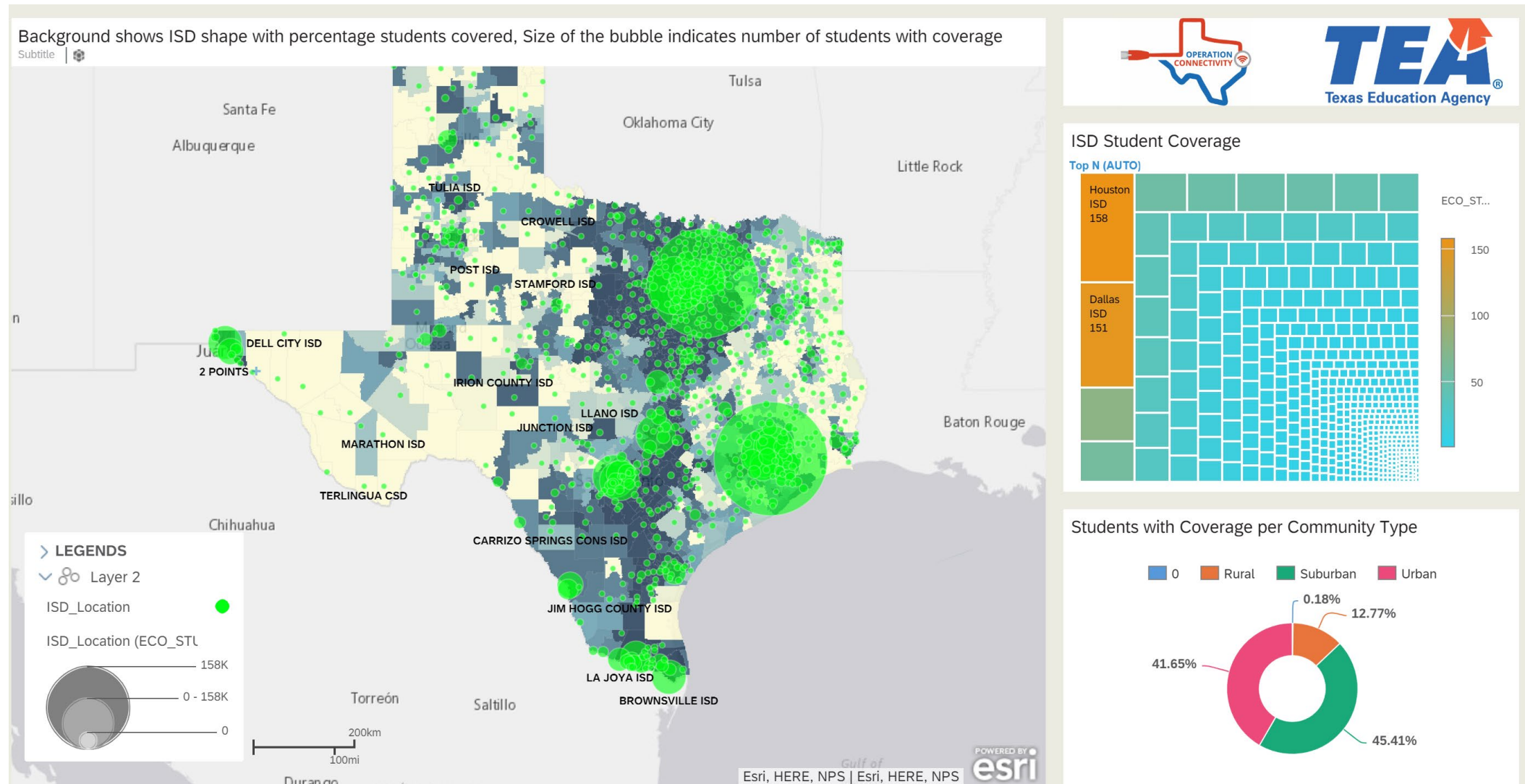
Statewide Broadband Coverage Overview for Economically Disadvantaged Students

Statewide Map of Broadband Coverage for Economically Disadvantaged Students

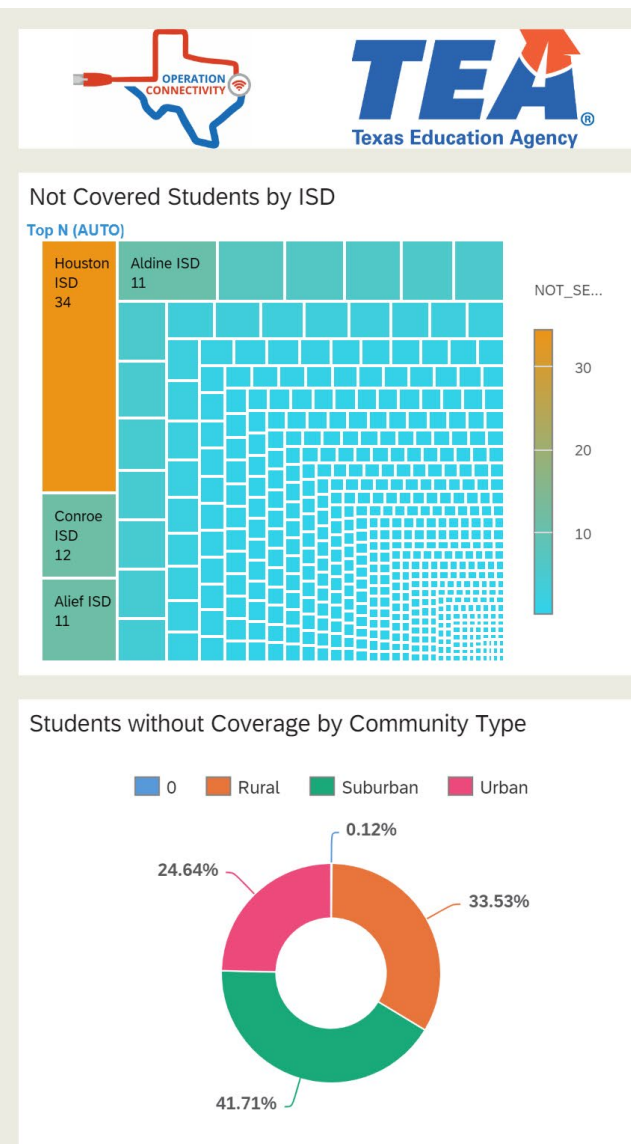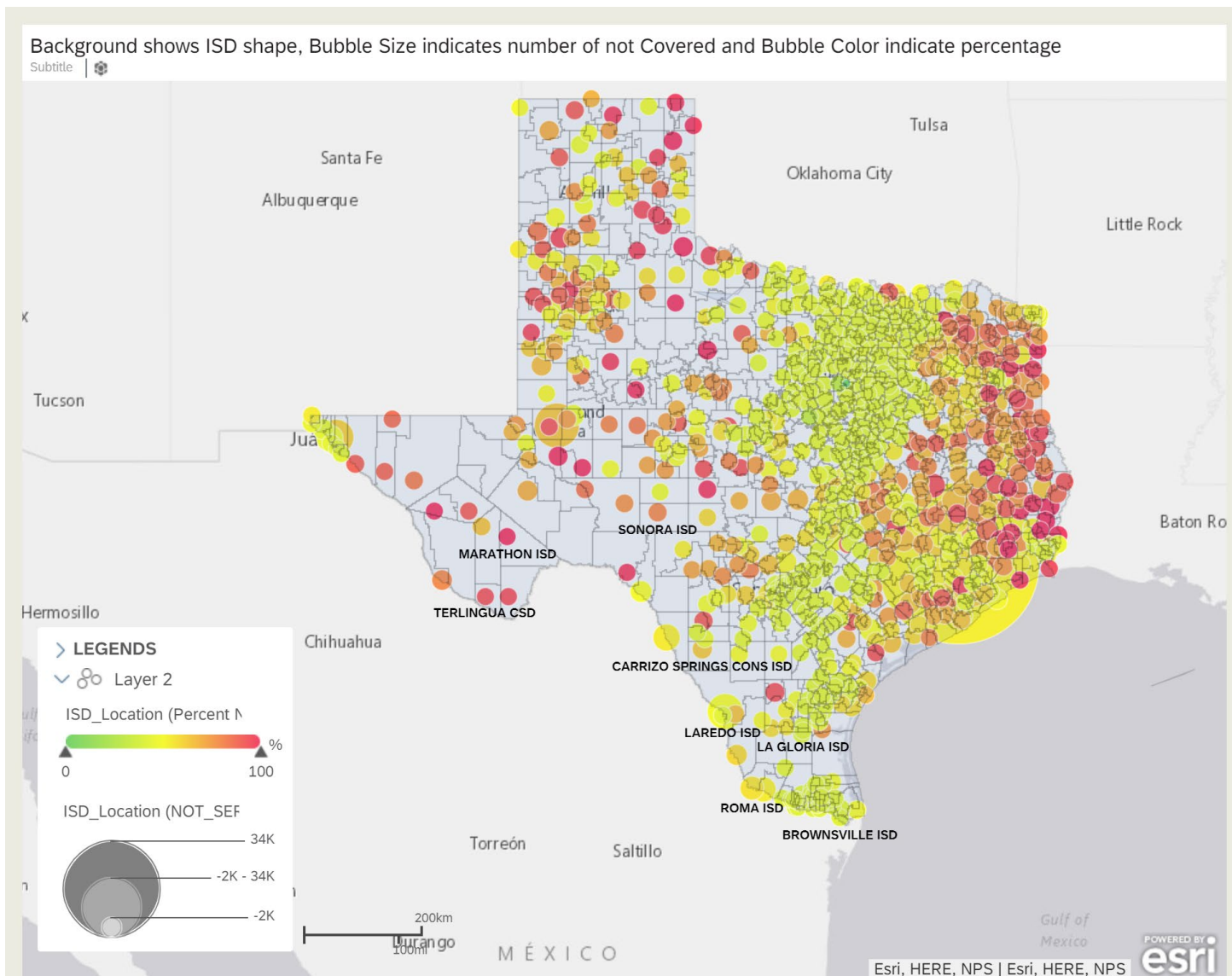# TEACT II: Driving New Forms of Connectivity

Explore New Broadband Technologies Applicable to LEAs in Unserved Areas, Leveraging Mapping of Eco Dis Students in those Areas

Work with the Legislature and/or Broadband Office to Secure Funding for New Infrastructure and Connectivity Adoption Programs for Students in All Community Types

Statewide Map of Economically Disadvantaged Students without Coverage

Tab 3

Governor's Broadband Development Council

2021 Report Outline

Observations

- Role of HB 5 in the state's broadband efforts, applause to the leadership and legislature for enacting
- Role of Governor's Broadband Development Council vs. Broadband Office Board of Advisors

Broadband Deployment

- Updated July 2021 Connected Nation maps
- Texas should strive for speeds greater than 25/3 – 3 year, 5 year, 7 year, 10 year targets
- Underserved areas need attention as well as unserved areas
- State needs to focus on a deployment strategy as quick as possible

Barriers

- Digital literacy remains an issue for adoption
- Affordability remains an issue for adoption
    - Highlight existing programs (Emergency Broadband Benefit, Lifeline, Provider programs)
- Ineffective monitoring of current federal commitments
- Remove barriers that inhibit the formation of PPP.

Opportunities

- Upcoming federal initiatives
- Public private partnerships (highlight NTIA requirement)

Technology

- Invest in scalable technologies that can attain higher speeds based on goal(s) set for broadband deployment
- Plan for continued at-home learning & homework gap/telehealth/remote work

Literature Review

- Best practices of state broadband programs/funds
    - (Brian Whitacre/Roberto Gallardo, Pew, Connected Nation, Benton Institute, Blandin Foundation, etc.)
- Benefits of deployment/adoption to underserved areas
    - Benefits of competition amongst BB providers to residents/businesses (use research from Brian Whitacre/Roberto Gallardo, Benton Institute)

Recommendations

- Plan for and invest in speeds greater than FCC minimum 25/3
- Substantiate demand at community, regional, and statewide levels
- Define what underserved means in Texas
- Fund digital literacy and cybersecurity awareness campaigns
- Study on the costs of NOT having broadband