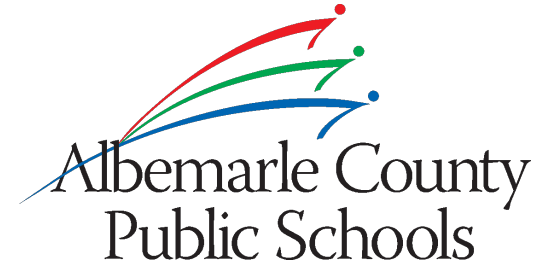
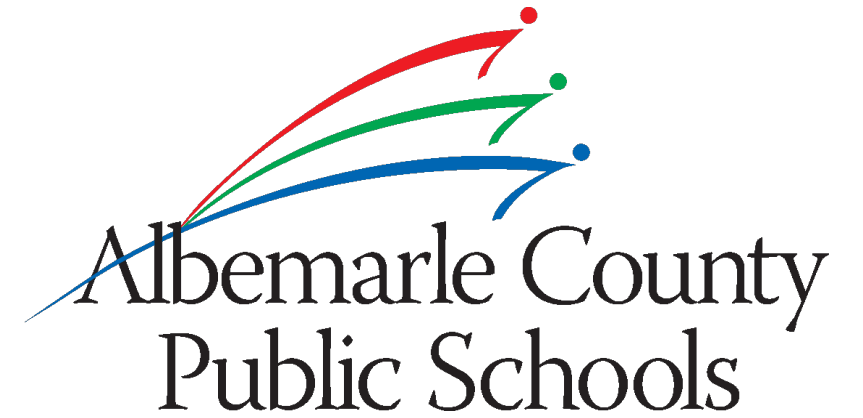




# Partnering Together for Connectivity



- Monthly Meetings
- Share publications supporting programs
- Data exchange
- Comcast Connectivity program – jointly supported and now administered by the County



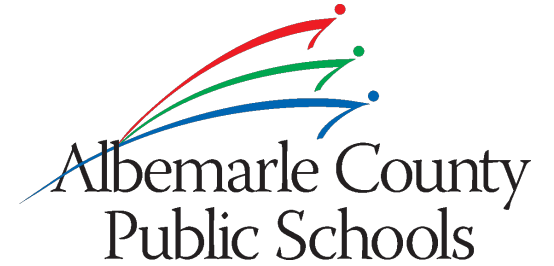
# Connecting Communities

Strategic Priorities and Accomplishments by  
the Broadband Accessibility and  
Affordability Office

Christine Diggs  
Jason Inofuentes  
Kley Todd  
February 9, 2023



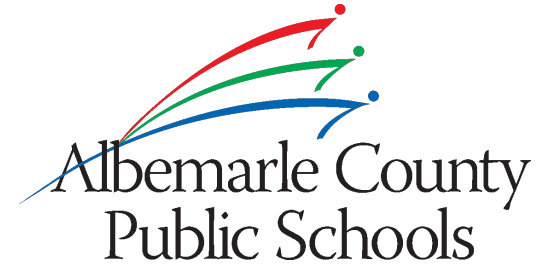
# Overview



- accessible – affordable - adequate
- First year objectives and accomplishments
- Future Paradigms
- Future Objectives
- Impacts on Students
- Collaborations with ACPS



# BAAO Mission



## County Mission

It is our mission to *enhance the well-being and quality of life for all community members* through the provision of the highest level of public service consistent with the prudent use of public funds.

## Broadband Mission

The Office seeks to accomplish the County's mission *by ensuring community members of all means have access to adequate and affordable broadband service.*

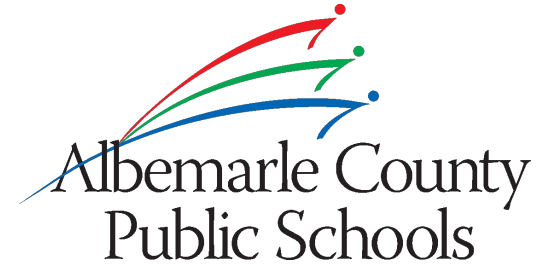
'access' = service is available to the community member

'affordable' = community members do not have difficulty paying monthly broadband costs

'adequate' = broadband service meets the needs of community members



# First Year Objectives



## Universal Broadband Access

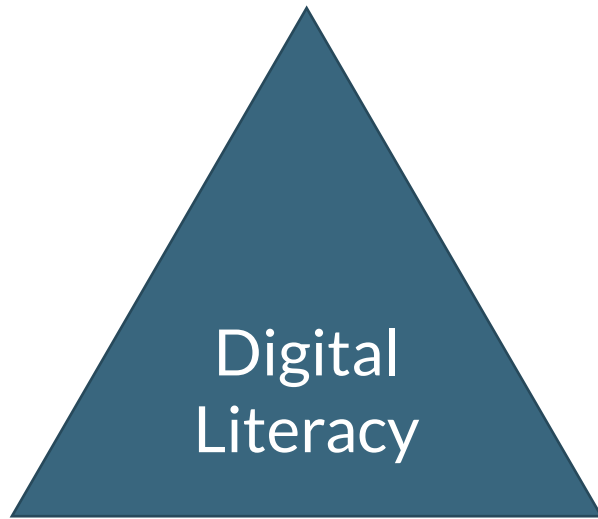
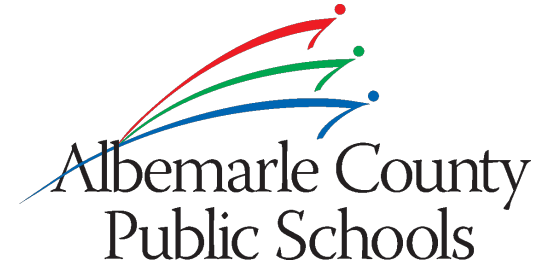
- The Virginia Telecommunications Initiative 2022 award places us in a position to achieve universal access by end of 2025.
- Future broadband projects will fill unserved gaps.

## Establish Affordability Plan

- Internet Essentials Partnership Program provides no-cost broadband service that can be quickly activated
- ACP Bridge provides up to an additional \$20 per month to supplement the Affordable Connectivity Program

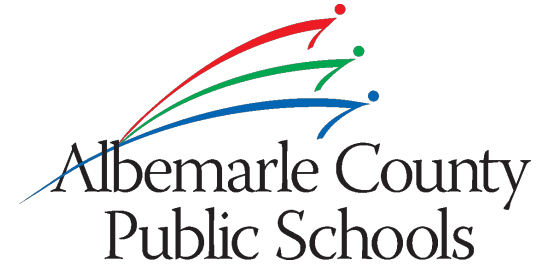


# Future Paradigms





# Future Paradigms



*“the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information”*

*(American Literacy Association)*

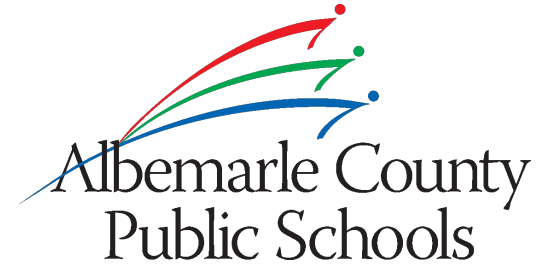


Digital  
Literacy

- Device selection and availability
- Technology fluency and troubleshooting
- Language barriers
- Familiarity with tech culture
- Protecting personal information



# Future Paradigms



*“inequities in digital access and usage . . . between the typically excluded and typically included using three lenses: gender, rural-urban, and socioeconomic status”  
(Tufts, 2022)*

Digital

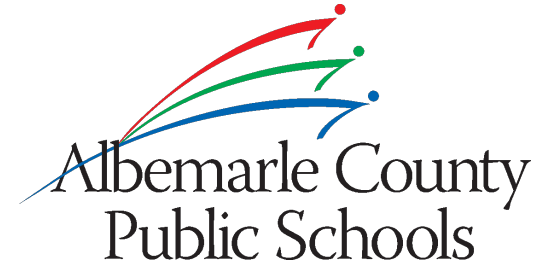
Parity

- Correlations between bandwidth and socioeconomic status
- Cellular broadband coverage
- Demographic differences in access
- Competition in the marketplace
- Reliability of services
- Network resilience in severe weather conditions





# Future Paradigms



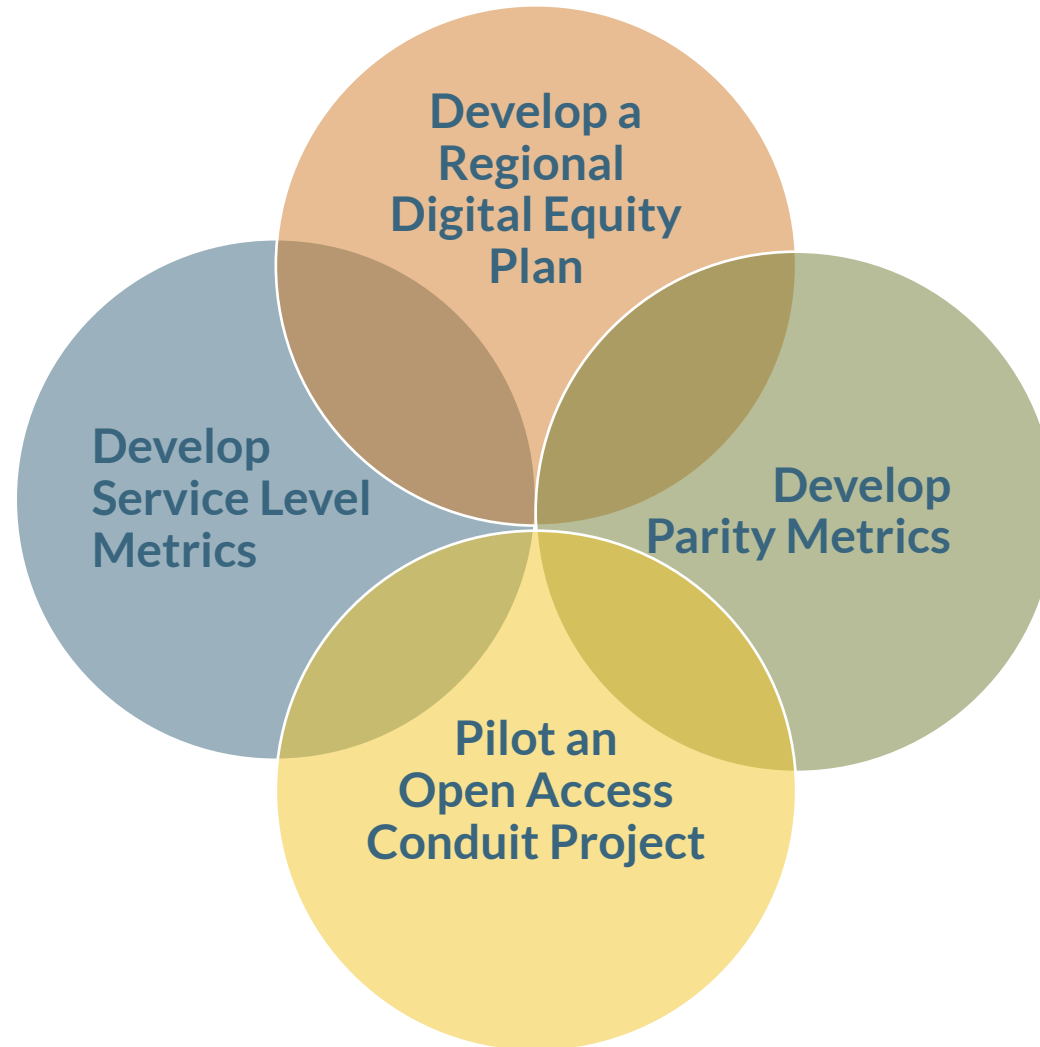
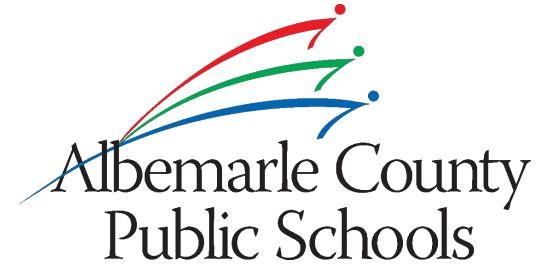
*“the ongoing, gradual accumulation of change  
in an organization’s process digitization”  
(Hyland, 2022)*

## Digital Evolution

- What are the future bandwidth requirements for ...
  - individuals?
  - businesses?
  - industries?
  - schools?
- What impact will future wireless technologies have on daily work and life?
- What future industries will arise from current advancements in technology?
- What tools does our workforce need to engage future paradigms?
- How can all benefit from this future?

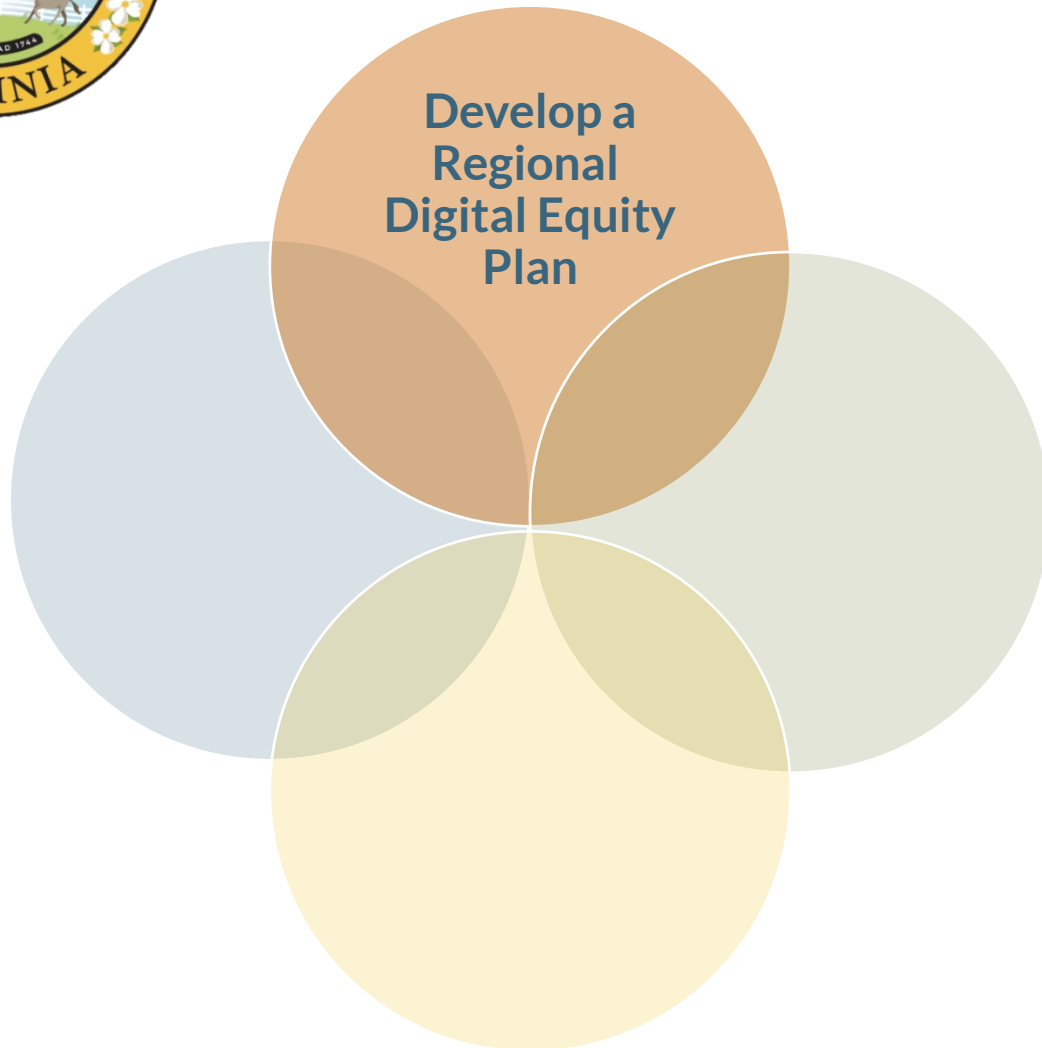
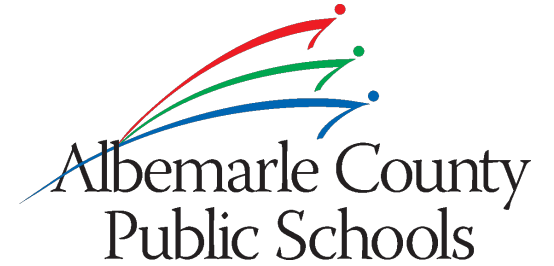


# Future Objectives





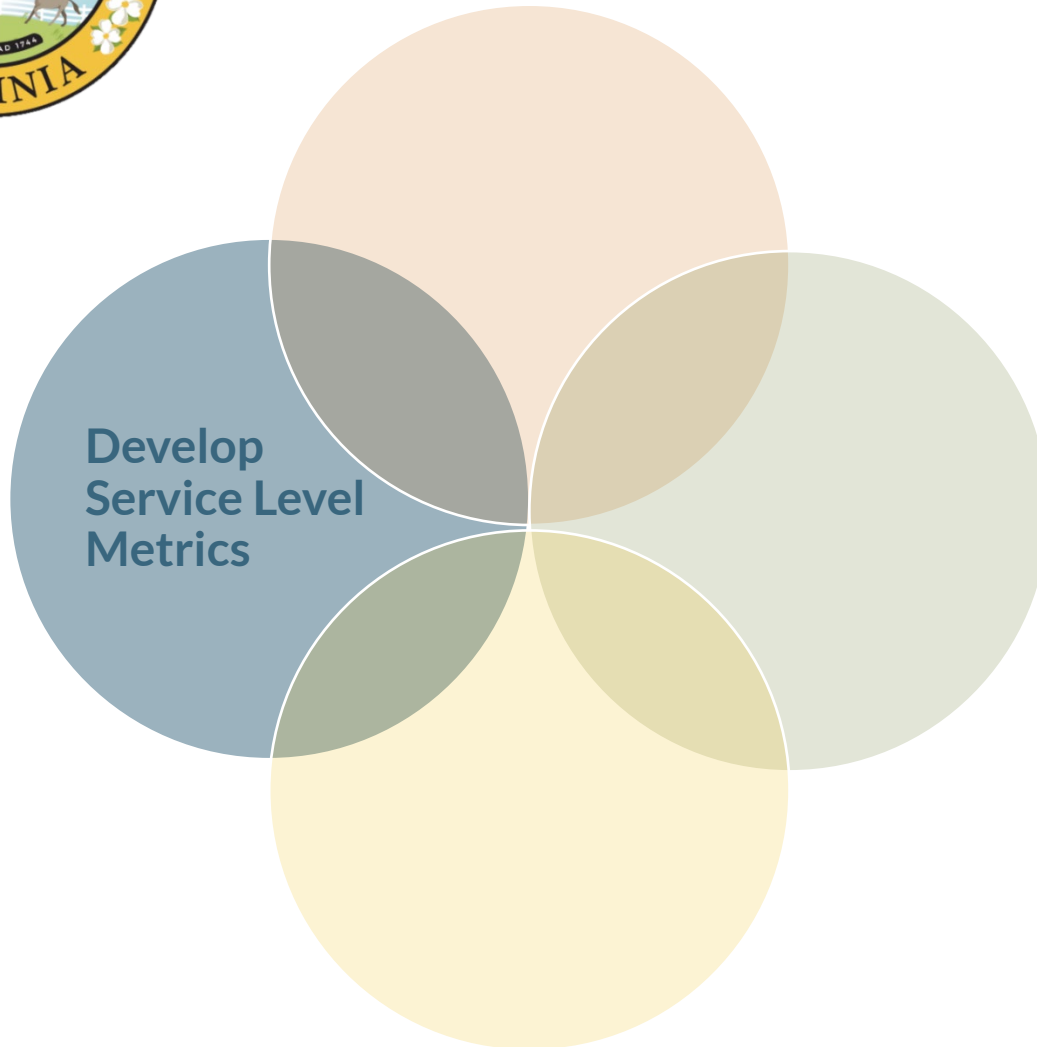
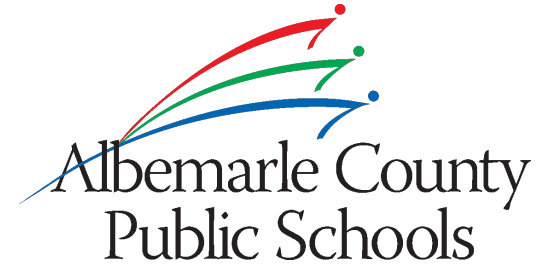
# Future Objectives



Coalition of stakeholders and key champions from within the County of Albemarle, the City of Charlottesville, the University of Virginia, and community partners, dedicated to addressing digital inequities.



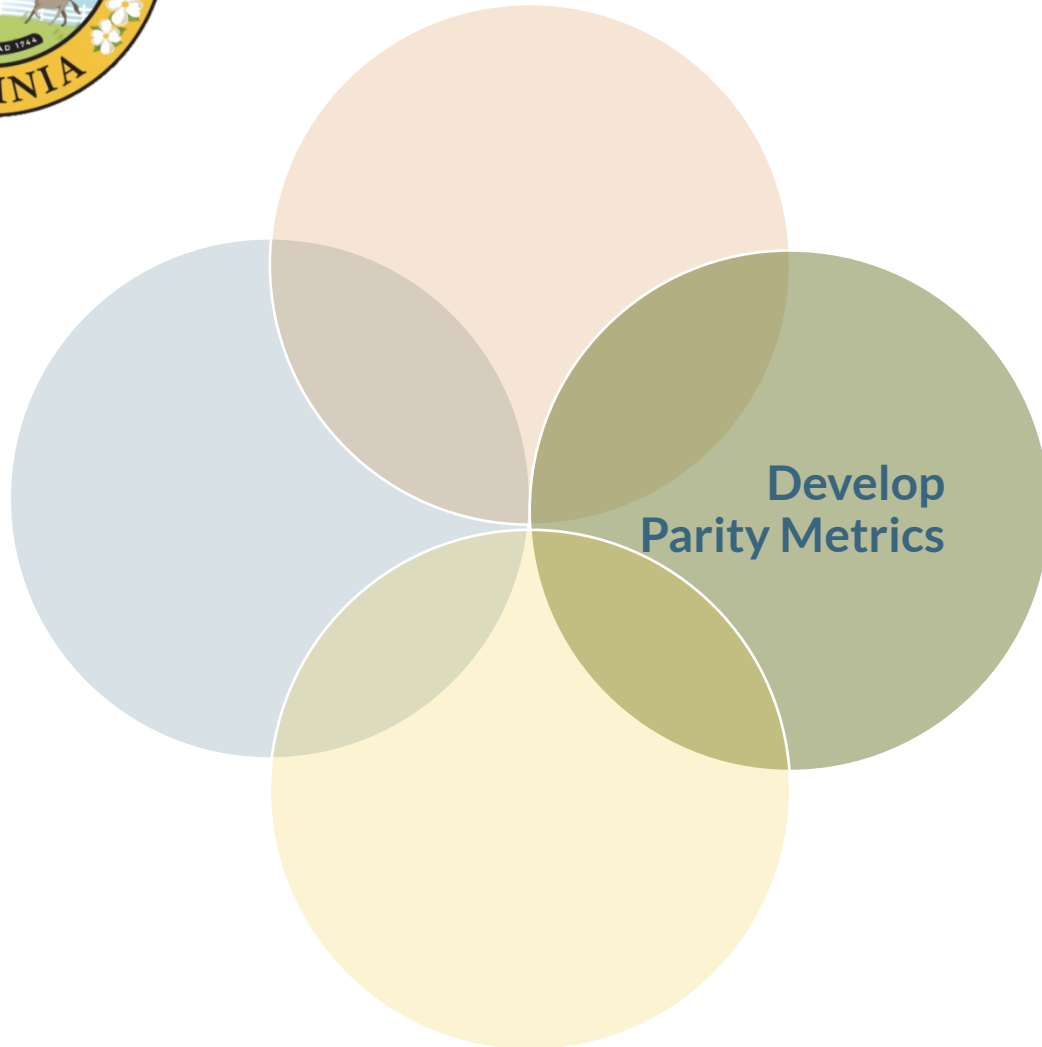
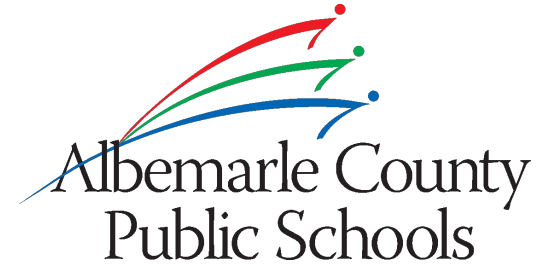
# Future Objectives



As part of AC44, the County's comprehensive plan update, work with partners in Economic and Community Development to determine what the broadband needs of community members and businesses will be in the next two decades.



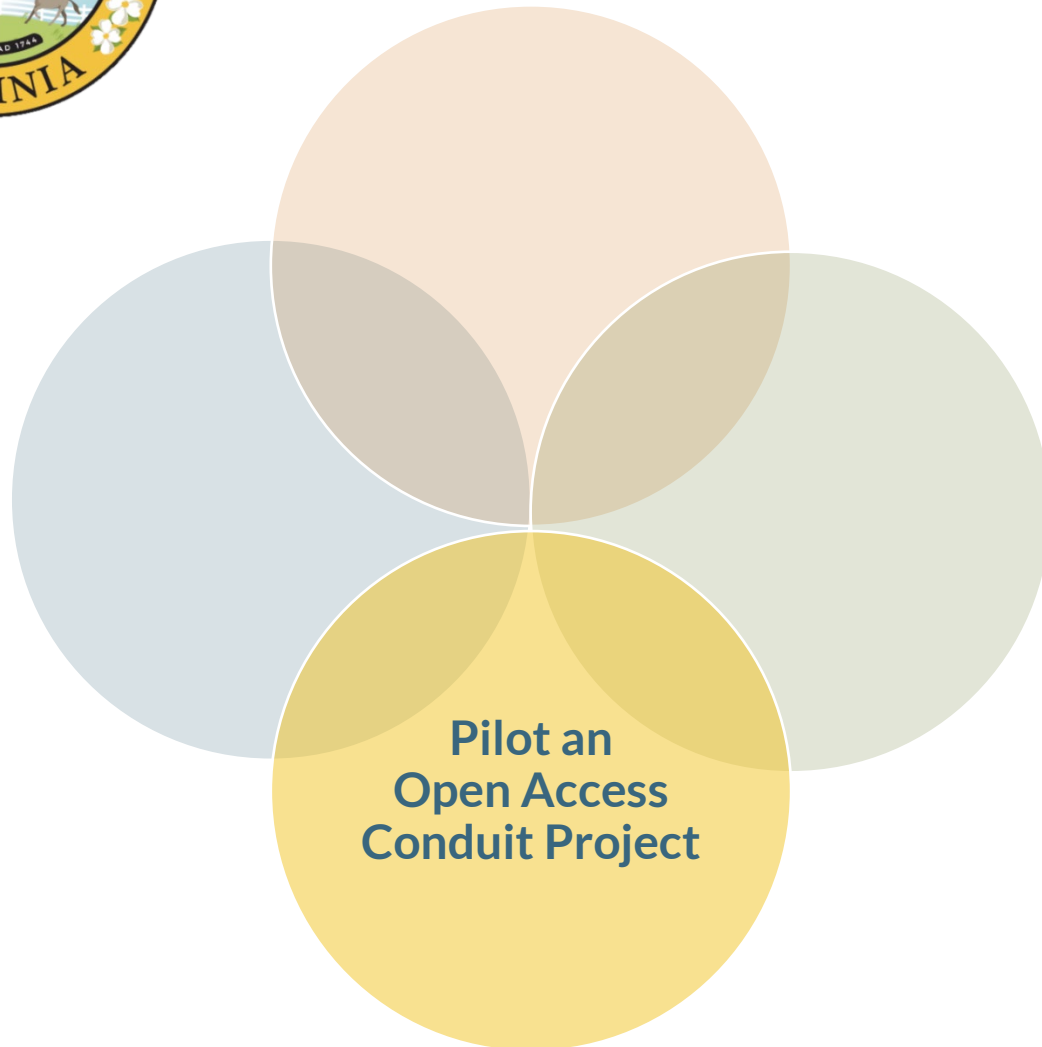
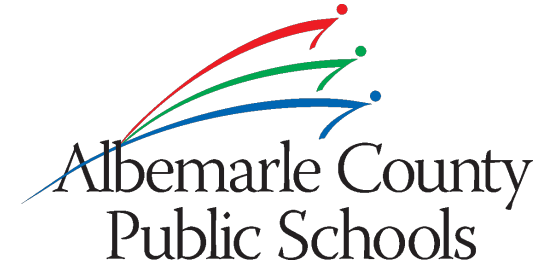
# Future Objectives



In order to guide our priorities for future efforts, we will work with community members and County stakeholders to develop measures for parity and apply those metrics to identify areas requiring intervention.



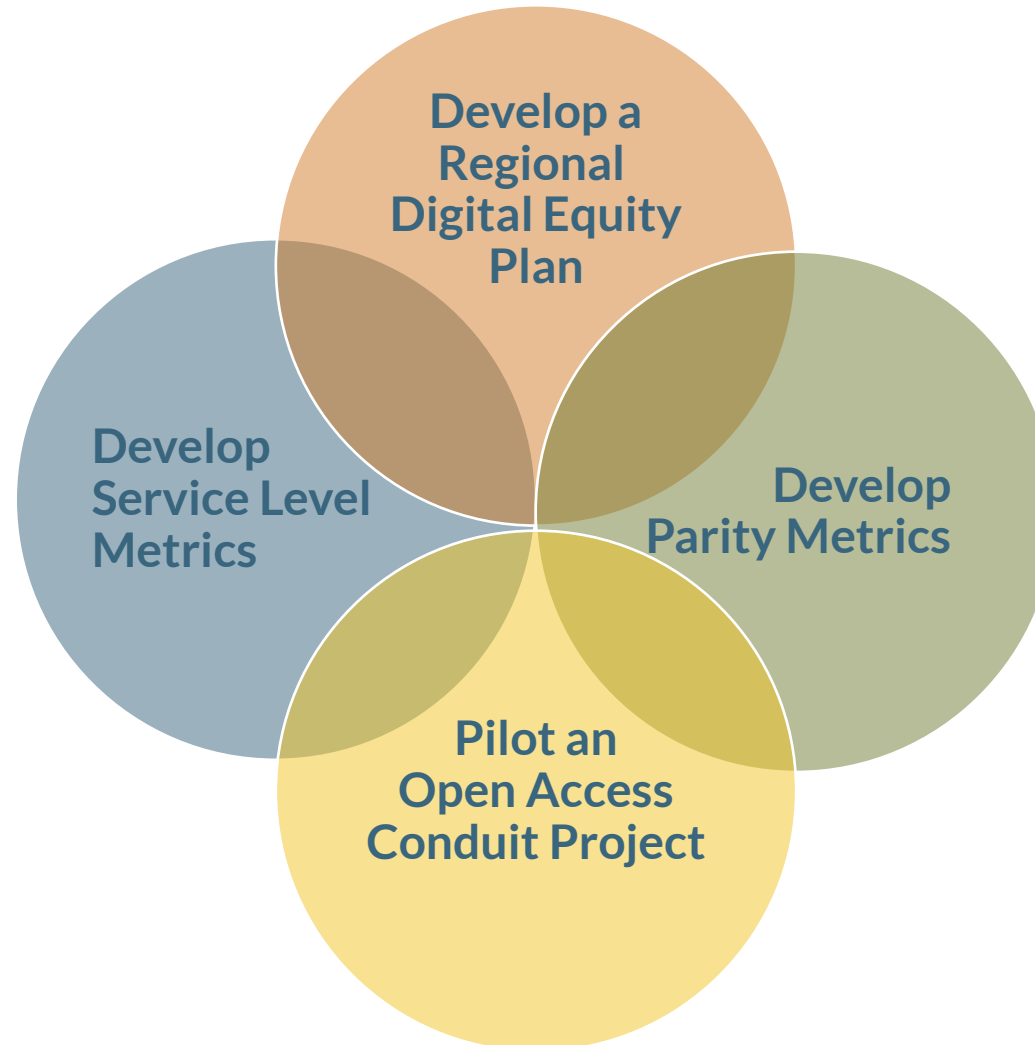
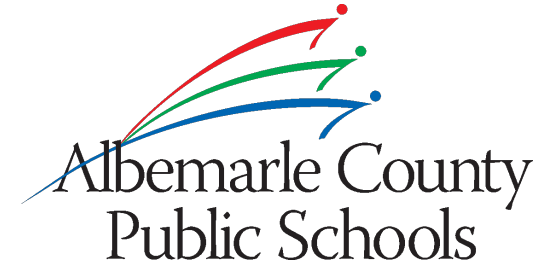
# Future Objectives



Undertake an innovative approach for encouraging broadband expansion, competition, and improving network resilience, by strategically placing fiber conduit in key corridors for use by providers, with conditions for use that address equity concerns.

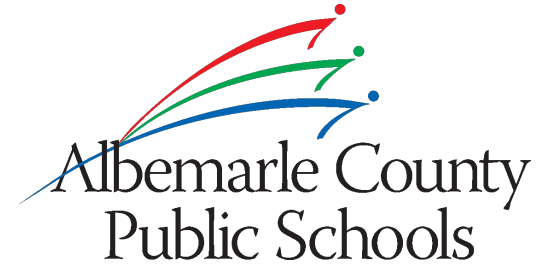


# Future Objectives





# Supporting the Broadband Office and Its Work



## ACPS@Home Program

- Schools provide outreach and partner with families around need for connectivity
- Comcast no-cost broadband available to families who financially qualify
- Kajeet Hotspots available to any family without broadband access
  - Concentrated primarily around the perimeter of the county

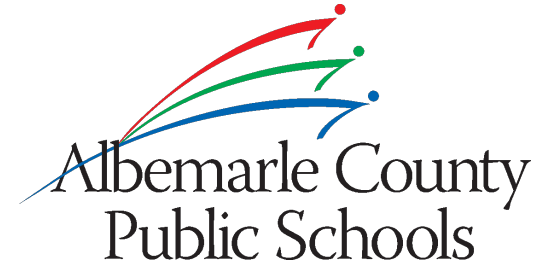
Thanks to these efforts and the work of the County's Broadband Office we have seen our students' connectivity improve:

- Approximately 11% not connected as of the 2019-2020 School Year
- Approximately 3% not connected as of the 2022-2023 School Year
- Based on connectivity data compiled by previous family surveys; on enrollment forms; and by the Broadband Office





# Digital Literacy



## Curriculum:

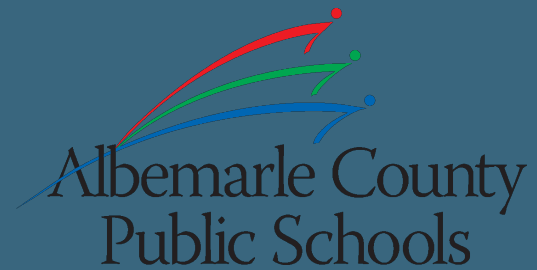
- ACPS has adopted Common Sense Media's Digital Citizenship curriculum, which focuses on the areas of:
  - Media Balance and Well-Being
  - Privacy & Security
  - Digital Footprint & Identity
  - Relationships & Communication
  - Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech
  - News & Media Literacy
- ACPS was recently certified as a Common Sense Division, an achievement verifying both digital citizenship instruction and family outreach

## Outreach:

- Family Field Guide
- Family Technology Nights
- Outreach at local community events



# Questions





# Citations

- Tufts University - Fletcher School. (2023, January 23). *Global Digital Inclusion: Progress to Parity Scorecard 2022*. Digital Planet. Retrieved February 3, 2023, from <https://sites.tufts.edu/digitalplanet/global-digital-inclusion-progress-to-parity-scorecard-2022/>
- Valentino, J. (2023, January 6). *How digital transformation made way for Digital Evolution*. The Hyland Blog. Retrieved February 3, 2023, from <https://blog.hyland.com/digital-transformation/digital-evolution-mindset/>
- *Welcome to ALA's Literacy Clearinghouse*. Welcome to ALAs Literacy Clearinghouse. (n.d.). Retrieved February 3, 2023, from <https://literacy.ala.org/digital-literacy/>