Modernizing Lifeline to Close the Homework Gap

Mobile Education Broadband

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The Homework Gap

- School districts are launching 1:1 & BYOD digital learning initiatives at an ever-increasing rate.
- When students use digital technologies in the classroom, what happens when they go home and do not have access to the Internet?
- These initiatives create an unintended "*Homework Gap*" between those students with adequate, off-campus broadband and those without.
- It is estimated that 10 million+ U.S. school children do not have access to broadband outside the classroom.
- A Federal Reserve study found that students affected by the Digital Divide have 6-8% lower graduation rates.

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The Homework Gap – Pew Research

Among households with school-age children ...

% **LACKING** A HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION AT HOME

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Annual income under $50,000	31.4%	24.6%	38.6%	37.4%	15.5%
$50,000 or greater	8.4	6.7	13.0	12.8	4.0

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2013 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

- 5 Million (of 29m) households with school-age children, do not have high-speed Internet service.
- 31.4% of households w/ income <$50,000 do not have high-speed internet (vs. 8.4% for $50k+ hh).
- This low-income group is ~40% of all families with school-age children in the United States.
- Low-income Hispanic and Black families trail (even further) by another 10%.

Schools have moved online. If you are not online, you are not in school. If you are not in school, your chances of success in life are brutally diminished.

What the FCC Is Saying

““There was a time when doing basic schoolwork required no more than a little bit of quiet, a clear workspace, and a pencil. No more. Today, 7 in 10 teachers assign homework that requires Internet access. Kids may be connected in the classroom, but if they are disconnected at home getting basic schoolwork done is hard. Researching a paper and applying for scholarships and jobs is tough without reliable broadband access. … We need to bridge this gap and fix this problem because our shared economic future depends on it.”

--Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel on the Homework Gap

“…[I]t is equally important for us not to view [E-rate Program modernization] through a narrow lens, but as a three-legged stool where all pieces need to be present for success: broadband at school, broadband in the library and broadband at home. Absent one leg, the stool does not stand.”

--Commissioner Mignon Clyburn on E-rate Program modernization

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Education Broadband

- All broadband isn't equal: the 'dumb pipe' can be made smart
- Broadband can be transformed into *Education Broadband*™
- Schools can control their Education Broadband distribution
- Students are mobile, too; often they are not at home, or living in multiple or changing locations
- Safety and affordability can be assured
- Scarce resources can be stretched and expenditures can be made to serve the public good
- Wastes nothing; keep students on-task
- Complies with CIPA
- An auditable public expenditure/subsidy that ensures accountability and prevents fraud

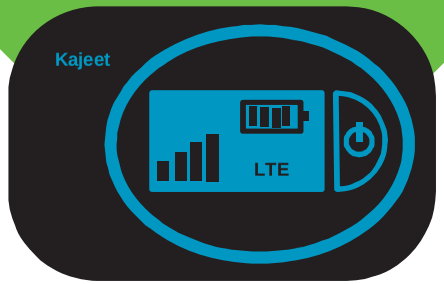
The Kajeet Education Broadband Solution

1 HARDWARE

3 NETWORK

Cloud-based Education Program Manager & Sentinel®

Program Administrative Management Support



Kajeet SmartSpot™

Advanced 4G LTE Wi-Fi Hotspot

Verizon® or Sprint®

Nationwide 4G LTE Networks

2 SUPPORT

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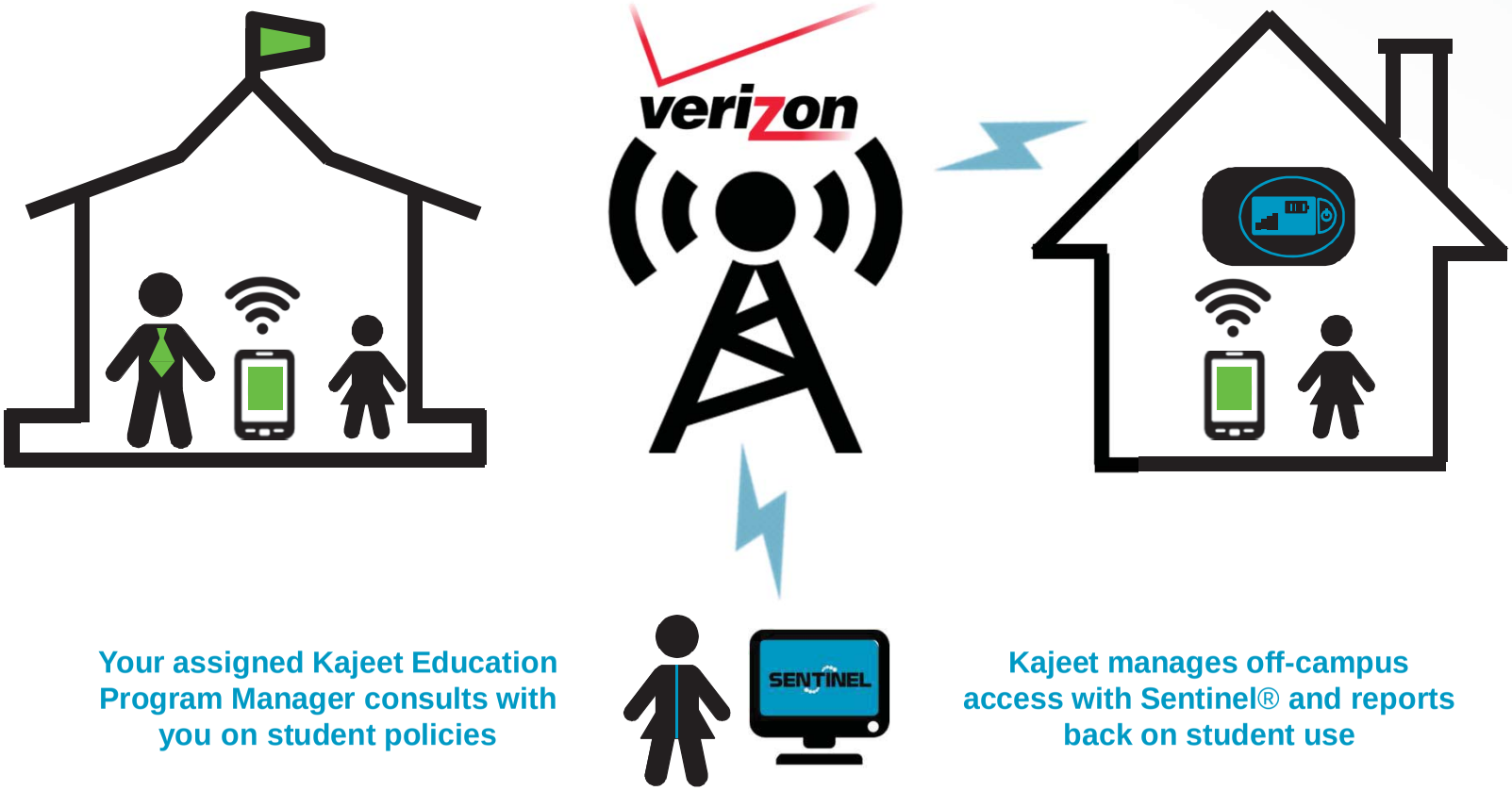
The Kajeet Education Broadband Solution

Students use your school-provided Wi-Fi while on campus

Kajeet SmartSpot™ connects students to learning at home



Your assigned Kajeet Education Program Manager consults with you on student policies

Kajeet manages off-campus access with Sentinel® and reports back on student use

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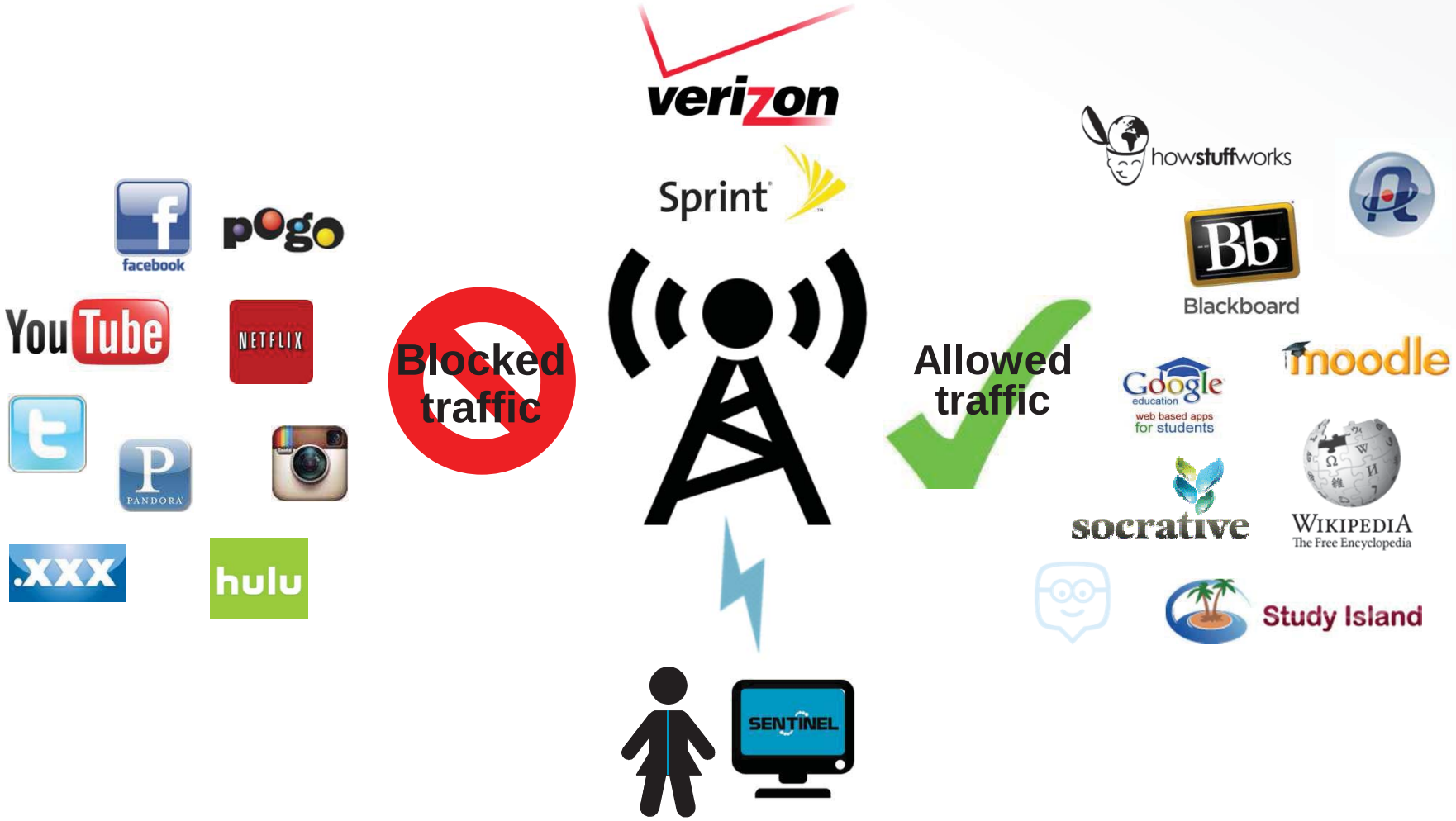
Safe, Filtered Education Broadband Traffic



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Green Bay Area Schools, WI

- SmartSpots checked out by students at the Media Center
- 10 devices per school
- Result = hundreds of students connected, devices “constantly” checked out.

“A lot of our classes are going paperless, a lot of the technology is just becoming intertwined with the way that we teach.”

--Kristin Brouchoud, library media specialist at Washington Middle School.

Detroit Public Schools, MI

- Only 30% of DPS' 50K students have home access
- SmartSpots + Netbooks provided to grades 8-12 students in a 1:1 take-home program

"Having Kajeet SmartSpot devices has allowed teachers to supplement their lesson plans with online academic sites and ensure that students have the appropriate means to complete homework and projects."

--Lynn Chudy, Middle School Science Teacher

Worthington Public Schools, OH

- Kajeet Technology Embedded in HP Chromebooks
- 3,000+ Chromebooks Deployed
- Results = ~500 Students Connected

"Connectivity at home is an issue we have been monitoring for several years, however we needed to find a good solution within our budget to close the gap, …it made sense for us to partner with Kajeet."

--Keith Schlarb, IT Director

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Richland District Two, SC

- Mapping data linked the access gap to test scores and grades
- Focus on ESOL students and multi-child households
- Partnered w/ Hispanic family liaisons
- Results = Over 200 families connected

"Bridging the Digital Divide is very important to us. We have a lot of blended learning initiatives, and we want to make sure that ALL our students have access to the tools they need after school."

--Donna Teuber, Team Lead for Technology Integration

Forsyth County Schools, GA

Community effort provides students with MiFi devices

By Jennifer Sami
jsami@forsythnews.com

POSTED: November 4, 2013 12:30 a.m.

- National leader in BYOT
- Students that could "find" devices often still lack access
- Created a Digital Equity Task Force to partner with community leaders
- Results = Over 150 families connected

"We are trying to achieve the transformative use of technology, where kids are doing things they wouldn't be able to otherwise. Internet off-campus access gives educators and students more options, beyond just turning an assignment in to a teacher."

--Tim Clark, Coordinator of Instructional Technology

Affton School District, MO

- 25% of students lacked access
- 44% impacted by poverty daily
- Partnered with counselors to identify need
- Students wouldn't raise their hand and admit need readily

"They get access at school and the other 18 hours of day there needs to be that equity. We want to focus on kids making, creating and designing as part of their learning. You can't do that just in the classroom. It is anytime, anywhere. "

--Robert Dillon, Director of Technology and Innovation

Expanding the Lifeline Program to Close the Homework Gap

- Modernize Lifeline to support broadband
- Allow Lifeline support to enable schools to pay for off-campus mobile education broadband connectivity for Lifeline eligible students
- Key issues:
  - Determining eligible population of students - utilize data already available to schools for students participating in the National School Lunch Program (consistent with E-rate), in addition to poverty level and participation in other Lifeline qualifying federal programs
  - Determining clear and competitively neutral minimum service capabilities for Lifeline-supported education broadband
  - Determining sufficient monthly support amount
  - Program administration – Is ETC status necessary?

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