

The Ontario-Montclair School District serves nearly 23,000 enrolled students in grades Kindergarten through eight from a working class community about 40 miles east of Los Angeles. We began using a Telephone Broadcast Messaging service called Connect-ED during the 2007-08 school year.

We believe this type of service is essential because it provides a very efficient and cost-effective means of informing parents about student attendance, school activities, and emergency conditions. We regularly transfer phone contact information from our core student information system software into the Connect-ED system, and use the feedback from the messaging service to follow-up with problems such as numbers no longer in service. This feedback loop improves our timeliness and accuracy in maintaining effective phone directories.

Like email, this service provides a vital communications medium. We strongly recommend that it be added to the Eligible Services List for Funding Year 2009.