



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1560 without my signature.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to survey local education agencies (LEAs) on student access to computing devices and broadband service and authorize the California Department of Technology to enter into sponsored service agreements with LEAs for the purpose of providing residential broadband to eligible pupils.

Closing the digital divide is crucial to promoting equity in our schools, which is why I worked with the Legislature to secure \$6 billion to expand broadband infrastructure and enhance internet access for unserved and underserved communities. Further, SB 98 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020) appropriated \$5.3 billion for LEAs to support pupil academic achievement and mitigate learning loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding which they can use for purposes including the purchase of computing devices. Therefore, the provisions of this bill are duplicative and unnecessary.



I encourage the author to continue engaging my Administration to find innovative pathways to achieve our collective goal to close the Digital Divide once and for all.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom