

merit

NETWORK. SECURITY. COMMUNITY.

CONNECTING MICHIGAN

Statewide broadband access for job creation, enriched education, world-class healthcare, improved public safety & government savings

WHO IS MERIT?

Founded in 1966, Merit Network began as a collaborative effort between MSU, U-M and Wayne State University to network the mainframe computers of the state's three largest universities. This vision for a connected, accessible world has since grown to include all Michigan's public universities with support from over 400 affiliate members and anchor institutions. Merit is a completely **independent, non-profit** organization.

Fifty-seven years later, Merit owns and operates America's longest-running research and educational network, providing high-performance services to educational communities and beyond. We continue to leverage our past experience from managing NSFNet, the catalyst for the modern internet, to move Michigan to the forefront of networking technologies.

Merit played a key role in the evolution of the internet and was the first Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Michigan!

Governed by Michigan's

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

4,000+ MILES

of fiber optic, foundational infrastructure

Michigan Ranks

33RD

in the nation for connectivity

MOON-LIGHT

for **17K** underserved households

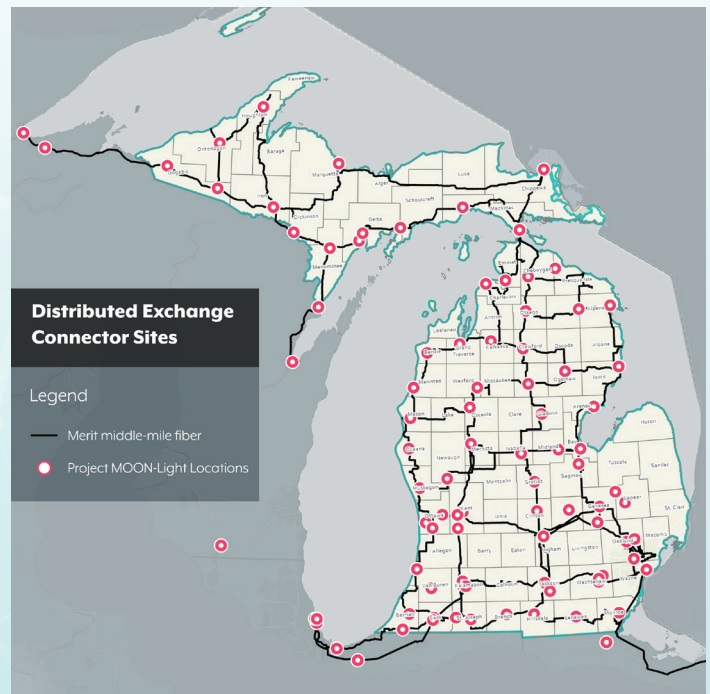
in **74** counties

Supported by

400+



Higher Ed, K12, Government, Libraries, Non-Profits



CONNECTING MICHIGAN

While the world, and our state, have come a long way since the internet's infancy, Michigan ranks 33rd in the nation for connectivity. This lack of connectivity brings with it broad social and economic implications especially for rural and low-income students.

With over 4,000+ miles of fiber optic, foundational infrastructure, Merit supports public-private partnerships to expand community networks across Michigan. To that end, Merit and MSU are working collaboratively on the Michigan Open Optical Network (MOON-Light) which will provide affordable, reliable high-speed internet to 17,000 unserved households in 74 counties across the state. MOON-Light enables commercial ISPs to interconnect to the high-performance Merit network.

We are creating a digital autobahn — the “on ramps” for other ISPs and communities to connect!

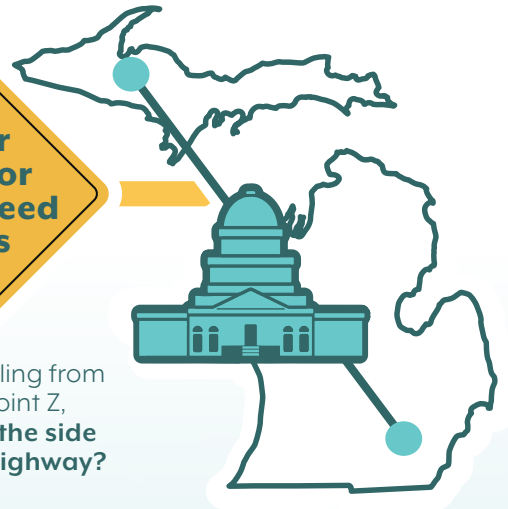
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CLOSING THE CONNECTIVITY GAP

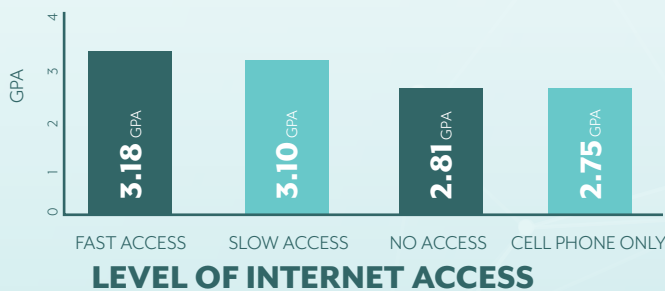
As a state legislator, you have the power to close the connectivity gap so that all Michiganders have access to the internet. From Ishpeming to Adrian and every town in between, every student, family, business and town deserves access to education, growth and a reliable connection to the world.



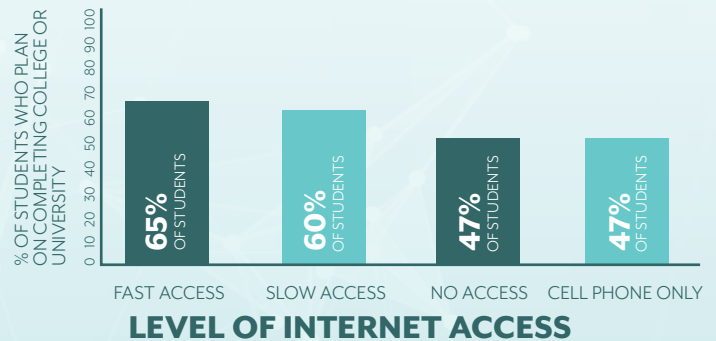
If you are traveling from Point A to Point Z, will you take the side roads or the highway?



STUDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS HAVE LOWER OVERALL GPAS



WHAT ARE THE FUTURE IMPLICATIONS?



LEARN MORE
Homework Gap Study

- Students without home internet access have less opportunity to collaborate with peers on projects
- Students without home internet are less likely to attend college or university
- Students without home internet are less likely to pursue STEM or STEAM career paths
- Students from low-income families are less likely to have home internet access.

CONNECTS ORGANIZATIONS & BUILDS COMMUNITY

MOON-Light is propelling Michigan as a national leader with the **FIRST STATEWIDE OPEN ACCESS NETWORK** run by a research & education network.



Michigan can really #FixTheDamnInternet!

Merit's Mission is **connecting organizations and building community**. We provide networking, security and community services to member organizations that help make our society a better place to learn, discover, work and live – while upholding the principles of an open internet.