

**Report of the Broadband Technology Committee  
Submitted by Burke Brown, Palmyra District OR-1**

In summary of New Resolution 2019-7 (New-B13) Fair and Equal Access to Broadband Technology, the NSEA created an ad-hoc committee to address the following:

- Identify and partner with statewide stakeholders including the Nebraska Rural Broadband Taskforce, Nebraska Public Service Commission, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Department of Education, School Boards Association and Future Ready Nebraska.
- Develop a statement of need and recommendations regarding Broadband Equity in public education.
- Develop a strategy to disseminate information to stakeholders.
- If appropriate, develop a strategy to lobby recommendations to the legislature and appropriate boards.

In summary, the ad hoc committee continued its mission and met through e-mail and Zoom to achieve the above objectives. Additionally, the committee received help from President Jenni Benson in connecting with NEA materials and resources. This was critical in this year of continued pandemic. The Government Relations team followed legislative movement and gave testimony to bills including LB520, LB456, LB455 and LB388. The committee chair had additional influence as a NITC Board member and appointment to its Equity in Education Committee.

Finally, the chair wishes to make special note of NSEA Relations Specialist Karen Kilgaren. Karen's ability to humanize the story of how Nebraska's Digital Divide is deepened due to the lack of affordable, reliable broadband was essential in furthering the reach of this resolution. It is recommended by this committee that it officially reconvene to continue its work for the 2021-2022 year for the following reasons:

1. The committee, through its members, has developed positive relationships with the Nebraska Rural Broadband Taskforce, Nebraska Public Service Commission, Nebraska Library Commission and Future Ready Nebraska.
2. The committee intends to disseminate information to stakeholders in the upcoming year, including at NSEA University.
3. Additional lobbying likely will be warranted, as lack of broadband technology in the home has been brought to the forefront of education and governmental leaders as Nebraska schools continue to require broadband connectivity for all students.