



Insego helps education nonprofit bridge the homework gap

About The Source for Learning

The Source for Learning (SFL) is a nonprofit organization committed to empowering educators to help students connect, engage, and thrive by learning. As an online service provider, SFL offers a wealth of online and on-demand classroom resources for free, including curated content, professional learning, and broadband support for underserved students and teachers in 19 metropolitan areas across the U.S.

Headquartered in Reston, Virginia.
> www.sourceforlearning.org



Insego MiFi® mobile hotspots bring reliable broadband to students in need

Overview

Access to reliable, high-speed broadband is essential for equitable learning today. Without it at home or in the classroom, students can't connect with teachers, collaborate with classmates, or do research to complete homework. Teachers, counselors, therapists, and others involved in supporting children's education can get left behind too without reliable connectivity.

To help foster equity in learning for children across the country, SFL offers free wireless broadband to students and teachers through its mobile hotspot loan program.

Problem

In March 2020, the pandemic caused schools across the U.S. to close their doors, forcing more than 50 million students into a remote learning environment. For millions of students who lacked reliable internet access at home, the "homework gap" became an educational crisis. Unable to participate in online classes or complete assignments at home, many students were likely deprived of achieving their highest educational potential and/or disadvantaged in securing good employment opportunities in the future.



BY THE NUMBERS

12

More than 12 million students in the U.S. lack adequate internet access or devices needed for distance learning.

> Common Sense Media

75%

of teachers say students' lack of access to high-speed internet is a serious obstacle to the effective implementation of remote learning.

> Rand Corporation survey

96%

of teachers and administrators believe that digital learning has a positive impact on instructor effectiveness.

> EducationSuperHighway



Challenges

Providing reliable internet access to students and educators in many different communities across the country required a solution that could be deployed and managed easily. SFL needed a product that was truly “plug and play” for children or parents with little or no technology experience or digital literacy skills. And of course, it also needed to deliver secure, reliable internet access almost anywhere — including places where no landline service (cable, DSL, or fiber) was available.

Although many mobile hotspots were commercially available, many of them used less advanced versions of LTE, resulting in poor and unreliable performance, often with data speeds that were too slow to be useful.

Results

At the onset of school-from-home orders, SFL stepped up to the challenge and quickly activated its remaining inventory of MiFi 8000s. Eighty-five percent of SFL’s deployments supported thousands of underserved students and their families.

Schools and districts frequently reported back to SFL that participating students were actively engaged in remote learning sessions, and parents also appeared to be actively involved in the learning process. As they explained:

“I did not have internet at my house. I couldn’t afford it. My income was cut in half since March and my son qualified for free lunch prior to my reduction of work. My son’s need for Wi-Fi [assistance] was out of strict necessity. Thank you for providing us with this service. Lifesaver.”

“Our home Wi-Fi was not able to accommodate three streaming devices at once and often cuts the video when we have three Zoom meetings. The hotspot solved the issue for my daughter.”

“Our internet connection dropped six times during his online sessions. We are at the highest speed that the internet provider offers for the area we live. The hotspot was a great help to stay in class with no interruptions.”

Looking ahead, SFL sees K-12 education evolving in numerous ways because of the changes COVID-19 introduced to remote and hybrid learning environments. This includes uninterrupted learning throughout the year, promoting new skillsets for students as they navigate remote environments, giving educators more professional learning opportunities and more.

Given these increased learning needs, SFL believes that both 4G and 5G mobile broadband access will positively influence the future of education.

Solution

SFL chose the Inseego MiFi 8000 as its sole hardware offering.

“Access to help desk support during this time was a high priority. Our decision to provide students with MiFi 8000 mobile hotspots was based on our long experience working with Inseego, including their stellar service record and highly reliable products,” said Bridget R. Anderson, Director of Community Relations for SFL.

“With its fast-charging battery, touch screen, ease of use, and reliable connectivity to LTE networks, the MiFi 8000 has been a great enhancement to our student broadband offering.”



About the MiFi 8000

Designed and developed in the USA by Inseego, the company that invented the MiFi® brand mobile hotspot category, the MiFi 8000 uses 4G LTE (Cat 18) technology to provide a reliable and secure



connection to the internet. With all-day battery life and rapid recharging, it can be used almost anywhere. A user can connect the MiFi directly to their computer, laptop, or tablet via USB-C cable (included). The MiFi 8000 also provides a secure Wi-Fi network for up to 15 connected devices.

School districts deploying a large pool of MiFi hotspots to their students and teachers can also benefit from Inseego Connect, which allows IT administrators to remotely configure and manage their deployed devices.

Learn more about the MiFi 8000 at <https://inseego.com/products/mobile/mifi-8000/> or [contact Inseego](#) to learn more about our solutions for the education market.

About Inseego

Inseego Corp. (Nasdaq: INSG) is an industry leader in cellular device-to-cloud solutions that enable broader coverage, multi-gigabit data speeds, low latency, and strong security to deliver highly reliable internet access. Our innovative mobile broadband, fixed wireless access (FWA) solutions, and software platform incorporate the most advanced technologies (including 5G, 4G LTE, Wi-Fi 6, and others) into a wide range of products that provide robust connectivity indoors, outdoors, and in the harshest industrial environments. Designed and developed in the USA, Inseego solutions build on the company’s patented technologies to provide the highest quality wireless connectivity for service providers, enterprises, and government entities worldwide. > <https://inseego.com/>

